Yorkshire Bird Report

2006

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Yorkshire
Bird Report 2006

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Flamborough © Mary Sykes

The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

The YNU is a registered charity founded in 1861. It is a federation of individual members and natural history societies based on the historic county of Yorkshire. Its aims are to study and record the county's wildlife and habitats, to publish its results and to encourage the use of that data to help conserve wildlife and habitats.

The YNU annually publishes four copies of the Naturalist, two Bulletins, and a Bird Report and jointly with Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire a Lepidoptera Report. In addition the YNU has published a number of books in recent years. Its annual report may be downloaded from its website at **www.ynu.org.uk**

The YNU is organised into sections covering various disciplines of natural history, which meet at regular intervals across the County. In addition all the sections come together for five main meetings held throughout the County. In March, each year, we hold an annual conference in Harrogate. We work closely with various statutory organisations e.g. Natural England, the region's local record centres and many other wildlife and conservation charities. The YNU also organises a series of training events through the year. Membership is open to all who support the Charity's aims and objectives.

Aims and Objectives

- Observing and recording: the plants, animals and habitats of Yorkshire and its adjacent areas.

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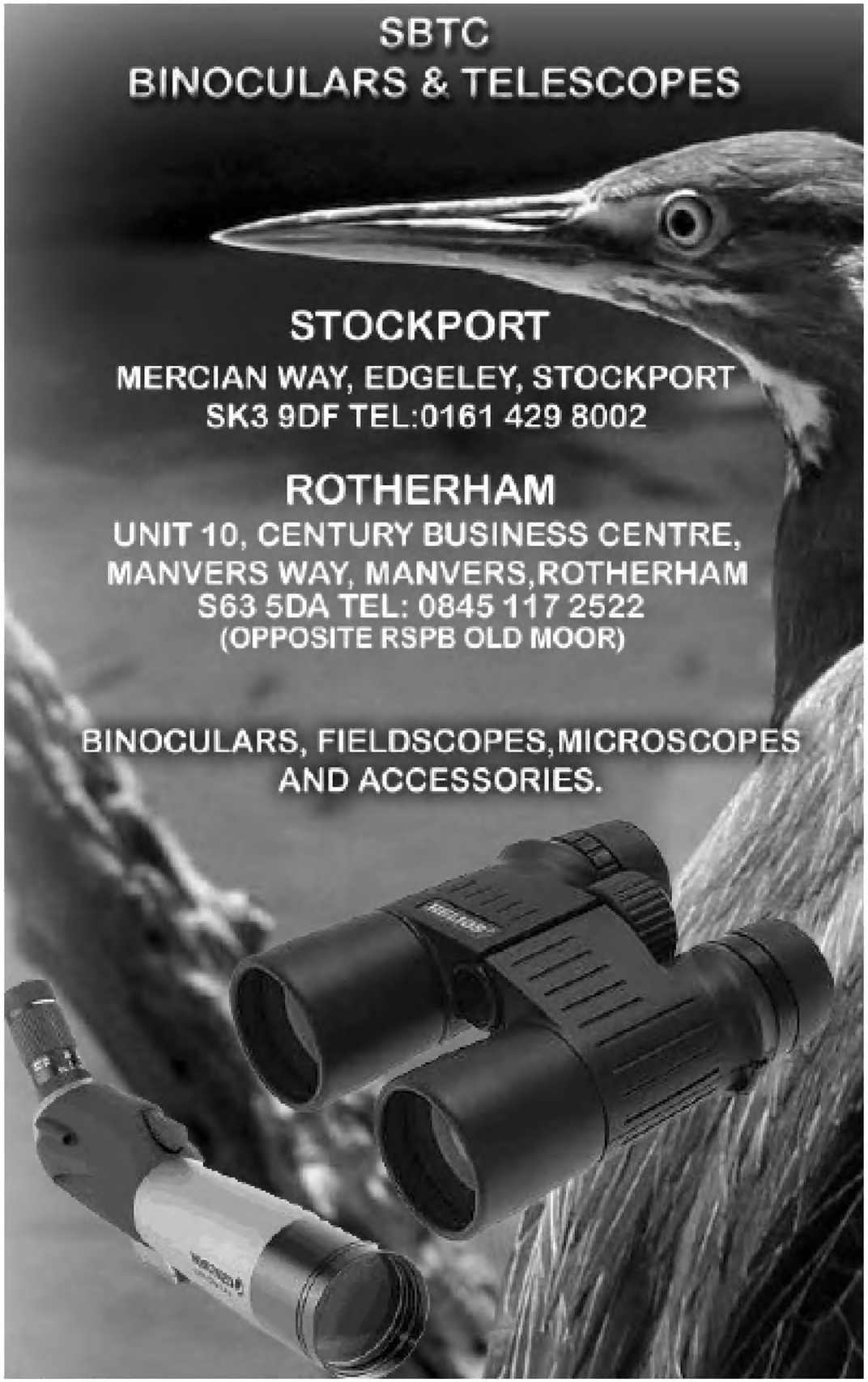

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Water Rail ▸ Iain Leach

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Training for future generations of field naturalists

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Introduction

This report covers all 296 species recorded within the county during 2006. All rare and unusual species have been accepted by YNU and the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) where applicable, prior to publication here. For recording purposes, the YNU divides Yorkshire into the five Watsonian Vice-Counties (VCs 61-65). The VCs each have their own recorder, listed on the previous page. Maps depicting the exact boundaries of each Vice-County are found on the inside back cover of this report. Furthermore, the Herbaria*United* website **www.herbariaunited.org/gridrefVC/** will attribute any grid reference to the respective VC; information on site grid references are easily obtained from the online Ordnance Survey "Get a Map" facility, or from the site directories on **www.birdguides.com.**

Readers of previous Yorkshire reports will notice a change to the way each species account is written; in this edition, there has been no attempt to divide into respective VCs. This certainly does not reflect a departure from supporting the VC recording structure, but merely reflects the practicalities needed to produce a timely publication. Previously, VC recorders were responsible for writing an account for every species in their vice-county, which might not be too onerous for the inland vice-counties. However, this resulted in the VC61 and 62 recorders producing accounts that exceeded the entire species list for many inland counties, where teams of up to ten writers assist! The solution employed with this report was to co-opt more writers and spread the workload.

Acknowledgements

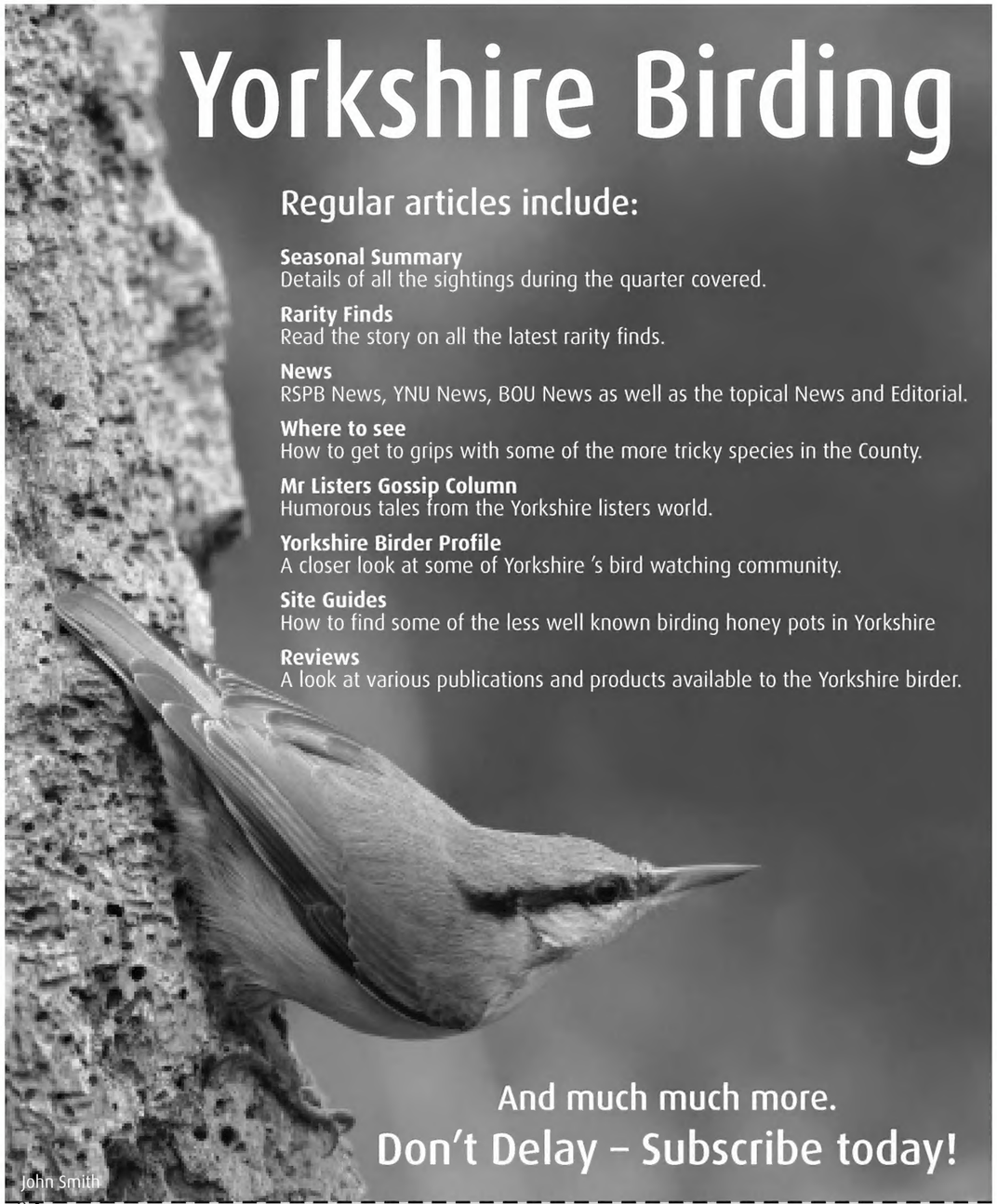
Special thanks are due to the many local bird report editors/recorders that assisted Jim Pewtress assemble the electronic data upon which this report relies. In addition, the writing team of Phil Bone, Ian Court, Geoff Dobbs, Alastair Forsyth, Mike Pilsworth, Andy Roadhouse, John Wint and Steve Worwood deserve particular credit. Thanks also to Jack Ashton-Booth and Richard Dale for their line artwork that further enhances this publication. We would also like to express gratitude to the many photographers who submitted work for consideration, including: Mike Ashforth, Bill Aspin, Barry Byatt, Graham Catley, Tony Collinson, Martin Garner, Sean Gray, John Hewitt, Andy Hodgkinson, John Harwood, Terry Hobson, Jon Horton, Adam Hutt, Steve Keightley, Iain Leach, Roy Lyon, Dave Mansell, Pete Martin, Simon Mitchie, Keith Pickering, Lawrie Phipps, Ian Robinson, Darren Starkey, Mary Sykes, Tom Tams, Garry Taylor, Mark Thomas and Darren Ward.

Highlights of 2006

While the overall Yorkshire list remained static during the year, the undoubted highlight was the UK's fourth-ever Two-barred Greenish Warbler at Filey in October. Current thinking suggests this form is a sub-species within the 'Greenish complex'; earlier UK records consisted of two from the Isles of Scilly and one from Norfolk.

Unusually Spurn's most notable October sightings concerned two species of geese; the returning white-morph Snow Goose headed over the peninsula towards Norfolk wintering grounds, but better still, was the fly-past by two Red-breasted Geese (one previous county record) that later took up residence in Lincolnshire. A drake Blue-winged Teal at Filey Dams in April proved very popular with listers from Yorkshire and further afield, while Farnham GP and Hornsea Mere gave refuge to drake Lesser Scaup in April and July respectively (seven previous county records). A Black Stork overflew both Wykeham and Filey in May, although it disappointed many by refusing to linger. A Cattle Egret at Fairburn in October continued this species recent upsurge (seven previous county records, involving 11 birds); climate change may well mean it will become much more regular in the county. Perhaps there will be a similar increase in Black Kite records, with one of the latter heading over Nosterfield at the end of April. Late summer produced large numbers of young herring in inshore waters; anecdotal evidence suggested the largest gathering off Filey since the 1940s. Unsurprisingly, several 'seabirds' were noted in record numbers; 16,000 Little Gulls roosted on Hornsea Mere in early September, Spurn logged an amazing 30,000 Common Terns offshore, while Filey attracted a county-record flock of 29 Roseate Terns.

A juvenile Roller that remained on South Gare for a single day in August was welcomed by many (three previous post-1950 county records), while further south, an Isabelline Wheatear discovered late afternoon at Filey in mid-October proved less co-operative (two previous county records). A Great Reed Warbler played cat-and-mouse at the Point at Spurn in May; although singing, obtaining good views proved more difficult. The Spurn area further enhanced its reputation in mid-August with the discovery of a Paddyfield Warbler on Beacon Lane (three previous county records), with the aforementioned Two-barred Greenish the only other significant autumn warbler. A Lesser Grey Shrike was a cracking find inland near Malton in late June and reflected a recent upsurge in sightings within Yorkshire. A wintering Common Rosefinch was unprecedented in Sheffield gardens in January, but the flock of 80 Hawfinch at Firbeck near Rotherham in March was a reminder of what once was a regular sight a mere 20 years ago.



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Description Requirements

It is our aim to continue to present these with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

British Birds Rarities

All national rarities must be described and accepted by **BBRC** to be included in the **YNU** report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will forward it immediately to **BBRC. BBRC** do request that all records be submitted through the County Recorder system. Failing this, we would at least expect to receive a copy. A list of species for which descriptions are required by **BBRC** for publication in their *Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain* is available from *British Birds.*

County Rarities

Following an extensive review in June 2007, descriptions are now required for the species and subspecies listed below, backdated to January 2006. The committee reserves the right not to publish records of scarce birds which cannot be attributed to a named observer and are unsupported by photographic evidence.

Taiga Bean Goose
Black Brant
American Wigeon
Ferruginous Duck
Surf Scoter
Wilson's Storm-petrel
Black-crowned Night Heron
Great White Egret
Purple Heron
European Honey-buzzard
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Red-footed Falcon
Kentish Plover
American Golden Plover
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope *(flight only)*
Caspian Gull
Ring-billed Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Tawny Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Dartford Warbler
Subalpine Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
Woodchat Shrike
Red-billed Chough
Arctic Redpoll
Cirl Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting

The Committee will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review (including Black-bellied Dipper and Siberian Chiffchaff).

The Reports Committee **may** request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of commoner species, (e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail), or to support records of migrant birds out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

In the cases of closely related species groups such as American/Pacific Golden Plover, Pratincole sp. and Dowitcher *sp*. where no specific identification has been reached, **BBRC** will not judge these records. They will be considered by the **YNU** for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The committee is also willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local Groups and Societies.

Descriptions

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. If anyone disagrees with the identification, that should also be noted. The YNU welcomes the electronic submission of records and photographs, with the provision that some detail is supplied about location, first and last dates and the name(s) of the finder(s). Descriptions and photographs can be e-mailed to the relevant VC Recorder or the editor.

If the finder/identifier has not submitted the record, but a photograph has been posted in a magazine or on the internet, the website address or magazine will be credited.

Forms for submitting details based upon those by the **BBRC** can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder or by email from the editors.

Barred Warbler (Flamborough) © Dave Mansell

Bittern (Potteric Carr) ▸ Iain Leach

Calendar

JANUARY

The year opened with mild, damp weather and winds predominantly from a westerly quarter. Towards the month end high pressure brought sunnier days and frosty nights. Most interest undoubtedly focussed on wintering wildfowl, with female Ring-necked Ducks at Coatham Marsh and Swillington, while Hornsea continued to prove attractive to the drake Lesser Scaup. The 'northern' Long-tailed Tit remained in residence in the Easington area until mid-April, but could prove frustratingly elusive. For the more intrepid, a New Year's Day seawatch at Flamborough was rewarded with a Black-throated Diver, Red-necked Grebe, two Blue Fulmars, a Velvet Scoter and a Mediterranean Gull. In keeping with mild temperatures and a burgeoning population, a Little Egret at Silverwood, Rotherham kept a few inland patch-workers happy. Five Tundra Bean Geese were discovered at one of their favourite Yorkshire sites, Wykeham Lakes on 2nd January and spent the next couple of months trying to hide from visitors, often successfully. The same day a Firecrest was a surprise at Flamborough. With a Cetti's Warbler again wintering at Blacktoft, the site staff proved the value of experience when they discovered another on a day out at Wheldrake on 6th. One of the month's biggest surprises was a party of four Cranes that made landfall at Burniston on 7th, over a month earlier than most county records. The same quartet overflew Redcar and Hartlepool later the same day. The 8th proved fruitful at Spurn and included three Smew over the sea and then a Hawfinch at the Warren, while the100-strong wintering flock of Snow Buntings were a distraction at nearby Easington. Nineteen White-fronts over Spurn on 9th were a notable flock in the age of Global Warming, with single Tundra Bean and White-front keeping wildfowl enthusiasts happy there on 12th. However, perhaps the most interesting goose discovered on the same date, only diffused into the consciousness much later, when a possible 'Grey-bellied Brent' finally showed well towards the end of February. A movement of 22,000 Guillemots past Flamborough on 15th must have filled a few lines in someone's notebook, while four Bonxies south on 21st were unseasonal. An exodus of Pink-feet from East Anglian wintering grounds was witnessed on 22nd, with significant numbers moving north-west across the region, including 1250 over Wilsic. Unusual wildfowl interest on the latter date included a drake Garganey that remained at Potteric Carr for a week. A Flamborough seawatch on 26th produced the year's fist Grey Phalarope, together with single Black-throat and two Great Northern Divers, two Blue Fulmars and an Arctic Skua, followed by a Pomarine Skua three days later. Just up the coast, Filey Bay sheltered Slavonian Grebe and Great Northern Diver with both in residence well into February. Surprise of the month waited until the month end when a garden feeder in Sheffield pulled in a Common Rosefinch, which proved twitchable over forthcoming weeks.

FEBRUARY

The first half was relatively dry but cool, although cold weather featured in the latter two weeks; NE gales bringing a distinctively wintry feel. There was little change along the coast, although visitors to Easington could delight in flocks of Snow Bunting and Twite, the latter peaking at 80. Tophill Low again proved to be the top locality for Smew with a flock of nine early on. Four Blue Fulmars headed past Flamborough on 4th, with a further six the next day. Two Pomarine Skuas were logged on 11th and on the same day 32 Little Auks tracked south past Filey. Coastal birders didn't hold all the aces though, with the surroundings of Leighton Reservoir attracting a Rough-legged Buzzard on 12th. Moderate Waxwing flocks were typically concentrated around urban centres in the west, with 90 in Sheffield and 40 in Hunslett. A Shore Lark at Beacon Ponds on 21st/22nd provided a further taste of the exotic, but many birders focussed their attention towards Firbeck Hall as the month closed. The grounds of this unoccupied stately home in the south-east hosted an impressive flock of Hawfinch. Initially eight were discovered on 25th February, but numbers burgeoned to an impressive 80 by mid-March.

MARCH

The first half of the month provided one of the coldest spells of the winter and spring remained a mere afterthought until late on. A predominantly northerly airstream dominated, until south-westerlies in the last week induced some early arrivals. Checking loafing ducks in March for a Nearctic visitor is always a worthy endeavour; a drake Green-winged Teal at Wheldrake on 10th rewarded the efforts of one such birder and by staying for the best part of a week allowed others to appreciate the nuances of this recent split. A north-westerly movement of Whooper Swans was

obvious in the middle of March, with 37 north over Swillington on 12th, an additional 24 over there on 18th, 35 at Old Moor next day and flocks of 70 over Agden, 56 over Sheffield and 34 over Strines on 22nd. A Scandinavian Rock Pipit at Filey on 12th may well have wintered locally and an additional three were identified coming into plumage at Flamborough on 23rd. With northerly winds finally abating, Spurn witnessed its first mini-arrival of spring on 24th; four Wheatears were accompanied by a continental Stonechat, a Black Redstart and a Woodlark, while a Bittern was undoubtedly bracing itself for a sea-crossing. A Nuthatch at Flamborough on 25th was another example of a good local patch tick, while the spring's first Osprey tracked north over Rother Valley on the same day. South-westerlies prompted a sizeable movement of Chaffinch through Spurn, with 1253 south on 27th and the same site producing the spring's first Firecrest two days later.

APRIL

A variable month, April was dominated by westerlies; it remained relatively dry and sunny. The month began where March left off with a significant southerly finch passage through Spurn, with 1357 Chaffinch, 74 Siskin and 295 Linnet logged on 1st. Trios of Firecrest were at both Flamborough and Spurn the next day, but pride of place went to the Alpine Swift that cruised the Filey cliffs for several hours until forced south by a weather front. More typical early spring scarcities were a Hooded Crow at Flamborough on 4th and a Great Grey Shrike near Whitby on 10th. Nearctic ducks then stole the headlines, first with the discovery of a female Ring-necked Duck at Allerton Bywater from 9th before Filey again proved its worth on 11th, when an immaculate drake Blue-winged Teal pitched up at the Dams. Staying four days it showed well to most, although spent a great deal of its time hidden amongst Bulrush. As temperatures climbed, the third week witnessed impressive arrivals of summer passerines, in particular wagtails and wheatears. Ten Ring Ouzels was a respectable count at Fylingdales on 18th and next day Spurn attracted 21 Yellow Wagtails and 40 Wheatears, Flamborough 38 Wheatears and Filey 25 White and 11 Yellow Wagtails. The arrival continued for a week, with 62 Wheatears inland at Whitley Common on 20th and back on the coast, a Blue-headed Wagtail, 47 Wheatears and 48 Willow Warblers at Spurn the following day. South Gare held an impressive 120 Wheatears on 23rd and down the coast there were 35 more at Filey, then 83 Wheatears and 54 Willow Warblers were logged at Spurn on 25th; 46 Yellow Wagtails, two Blue-headed Wagtails and 30 Wheatear were also at Scalby Lodge on the same date. Waxwings coalesced prior to departure, with a gathering of 91 in Leeds on 21st the highest, while on the coast a Raven at Filey on 22nd constituted only the second modern local record. Spurn hit back with six Cranes south and two adult Long-tailed Skuas that headed east out of the Humber. Another Hoopoe graced Spurn on 27th when 276 Arctic Terns headed east and at the opposite end of the county, a Shore Lark presumably had thoughts aimed in a similar direction. An additional two Cranes flew south through Spurn on 28th and 974 Arctic Terns east on 30th trumped the earlier movement. However, headlines at the month end were grabbed by the Harrogate area; first a Black Kite drifted north through Nosterfield on 29th, before the discovery of a drake Lesser Scaup at the difficult to access Farnham GP on the final day of April.

Blue-winged Teal (Filey Dams) © Tony Collinson

MAY

Nosterfield continued its good run with a cracking summer-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher on 1st, although unfortunately it only remained the one day. A flock of 34 Waxwings in Yeadon were reluctant to leave, but migration featured elsewhere. Spurn witnessed a passage of Bar-tailed Godwits with 76 heading east and an additional 37 were at Broomhill; 30 Black-tailed Godwits dropped into Old Moor, 33 were at Filey Dams and 95 more on North Duffield Carrs. Also on 1st and heading for similar latitudes, 318 Arctic Terns flew east at Spurn. A trip of nine Dotterel arrived at Aldbrough on 3rd, with one on Danby Beacon the same day; three were present at the latter site by 4th. Although increasingly regular, a Great White Egret at Wheldrake also on 4th was a great find, while Wintersett was rewarded with a female Ring-necked Duck. High pressure continued to build over central Europe and the subsequent warm south-easterly airflow induced overshoot for several days. A Hoopoe appeared at Kettleness on 5th, while further down the coast at Spurn a Golden Oriole competed for attention amongst the southerly passage of 2600 Swallows. The Mediterranean theme continued the following day with a Hoopoe at Spurn and a Golden Oriole at Newton-on-Ouse. With such a supporting cast a Short-toed Lark at South Gare on 7th was not unexpected, although a male Red-backed Shrike at Spurn was earlier than most. The impressive habitat improvements at Potteric were rewarded with the appearance of a one-day Stone Curlew also on 7th. A Grey-headed Wagtail was another quality find at Spurn on 9th, while further north another Hoopoe made landfall at Flamborough. A Spotted Crake was calling at Blacktoft on 11th, with a Temminck's Stint at Old Moor and a ringtail Montagu's Harrier cruised over fields at Filey on the same day. An adult Long-tailed Skua lingered in Filey Bay on 13th before heading off south past Flamborough. Another Temminck's Stint appeared in the region at Swillington on 13th, but the best wader by far was the Broad-billed Sandpiper at Spurn. Those dragged out of the 'Crown' away from the Cup Final need not have rushed, as this first for Spurn stayed a further two days. Two Cranes cruised over Ravenscar on 14th, but inevitably attention soon focussed back to Spurn with a Golden Oriole and Serin there on 17th, followed by a Honey Buzzard and Red-rumped Swallow next day. A Temminck's Stint at Spurn on 20th was the prelude to a dash of colour on 21st: a Bee-eater tarried on Flamborough, a Hoopoe was an excellent find inland at Redmires and Spurn pitched in with a Serin. A Bluethroat was a well appreciated record of an increasingly scarce migrant at South Gare on 23rd, while a Temminck's Stint

Red-backed Shrike (Scalby) © Dave Mansell

was on Scalby Lodge Pond. However, most attention on 23rd focussed on the skies, with two Cranes soaring along the coastline around Flamborough and Filey and, far better, a Black Stork that initially flew south over Wykeham, before circling over Filey. As high pressure built over France so temperatures climbed and provided prime conditions for over-shoots. A Golden Oriole at Spurn on 25th kicked off proceedings, while a summer-plumaged White-winged Black Tern provided a stunning draw at Broomhill, then latterly Wombwell and Old Moor from 26th. Flamborough hosted Grey-headed Wagtail, Serin and Common Rosefinch the following day, while Spurn produced another Serin and an elusive Great Reed Warbler which skulked at the Point. Without a twitchable individual for some years, this would have been a popular attraction if it had shown well and stayed – unfortunately, it did neither. A drake Ring-necked Duck showed well at North Duffield Carrs from 29th, with another Common Rosefinch at Flamborough and a popular Red-necked Phalarope on Gouthwaite Reservoir on the same date.

JUNE

A male Subalpine Warbler was trapped at Spurn on 2nd; hopes of a longer stay were soon dashed and it was incredibly re-found on the Farne Islands the following day. The Serin made a re-appearance at Flamborough the following day, when Potteric attracted a Temminck's Stint and a Common Rosefinch was at Spurn. A cracking Rosy Starling brightened the mood of one householder on the Eastfield estate near Scarborough on 4th/5th.

Sand Martin (Hornsea) © Pete Martin

Unfortunately, the record only came to light from close-range photos of it feeding on the bird table. High pressure edging into Scandinavia resulted in light drift and Spurn benefited with several Red-backed Shrikes: two on 4th were followed by a new bird next day and then two more arrived on 6th. A Common Rosefinch provided a little variation at the same location on 5th. A Great White Egret made landfall at Aldbrough on 8th and toured neighbouring Atwick and Hornsea over subsequent days. An Icterine Warbler at Filey on 10th was new, while Spurn had a superb day on 11th: a Bee-eater spent over an hour at the Point, two Spoonbills flew south, as did 4118 Swifts and a male Red-footed Falcon. The falcon later flew north and presumably the same bird then flashed through Hornsea Mere. The first Marsh Warbler of spring was identified at Spurn on 12th and further north, Flamborough hosted a Red-backed Shrike the following day. However, most attention on 13th diverted towards Old Moor where a Purple Heron delighted a few hundred before heading off east. Spurn's second Marsh Warbler was discovered on 14th and the last Red-backed Shrike of spring appeared at the Warren three days later. Also on 17th two Cranes drifted south over Scarborough, but more co-operative were three that took up temporary residence in fields near West Carlton from 19th. A Marsh Warbler stretched its vocal chords at Reighton, Filey on 18th, while on the same day 'vis mig' enthusiasts tested their counting skills at Spurn with 6750 Swifts south, and an impressive 9000 south on 19th. A Montagu's Harrier overflew nearby Easington on 19th, with a ringtail through Castle Howard on 24th. Unbeknown to most, the major prize, however, lurked close by, in the form of a splendid Lesser Grey Shrike on private farmland at Ryton, near Malton for three days from 24th.

JULY

The month was hot and dry, with light winds and negligible rainfall. Leaving West Carlton the three Cranes initially flew south over Spurn on 4th before switching back north. Otherwise very little appeared to be on the move, although Swifts tracked south through Spurn, with a best of 4300 on 7th. A drake Lesser Scaup loafing amongst the moulting ducks on Hornsea Mere was a creditable find on 10th, but unfortunately it wasn't relocated on subsequent dates. The appearance of an Alpine Swift over Harrogate on 18th and a Serin at Spurn on the same day reflected the warm temperatures. Nocturnal Storm Petrel ringing sessions were conducted at several sites, with a best of 19 trapped at Filey on 19th. A Long-tailed Skua drifted south past Flamborough next day, while a third-summer Caspian Gull was photographed on fields near Easington on 23rd. An eclectic mix of species flew south at Spurn on 26th including 210 Whimbrel, 1382 Sand Martins and 84 Turnstone. Seawatchers geared up to the new season towards the month end and early rewards were the first Balearic Shearwaters past Filey on 29th and Flamborough on 30th. July ended with a Red-necked Phalarope at Beacon Ponds on the penultimate day, which then relocated onto the Humber on 31st.

AUGUST

The settled weather that featured throughout July broke in early August. High pressure remained centred in the Atlantic and allowed a northerly airstream to dominate, particularly during the first half. Strong northerlies on 2nd/3rd and again 12th/13th forced several Storm Petrels into coastal waters and, coincident with the same weather systems, significant numbers of Arctic Terns tracked north along the coast: 420 headed past Scarborough on 3rd with 476 at Flamborough on 13th. A Cory's Shearwater flew south at Scarborough on 12th, with perhaps the same then north past Flamborough the following day. A Crane was at Easington on 5th while a juvenile White-winged Back Tern entertained at Hornsea the following day. Another White-winged Black appeared in the tern roost on Filey Brigg on 7th; this time a moulting adult, the same individual relocated to Minsmere the following day. As well as increasing seabird interest, north-easterlies on 13th prompted the arrival of two Wrynecks at Spurn and the major prize of a Paddyfield Warbler on Beacon Lane. A Spotted Crake arrived at Blacktoft on the same date, but unlike the aforementioned, was polite enough to hang around and was last seen in mid-September. A low pressure tracked north on 18th and produced ideal fall conditions, with north-easterly winds and overnight rain. Barred Warblers were unearthed at Filey, Flamborough and two at Spurn; two Wrynecks and an Icterine Warbler were also at Spurn, with another Icky at Scarborough. Better still a Thrush Nightingale was discovered on Spurn (where else!), but the opposite end of the county gazumped everyone, when a juvenile Roller was found on South Gare. Three Honey Buzzards flew south over Flasks Lake on 19th, but inevitably most interest was on the coast. Greenish Warbler, a Common Rosefinch and Icterine Warbler headlined at Flamborough, Filey added a Wryneck, while another Barred Warbler was at Spurn. Presumably the result of the same weather system, were a Temminck's Stint at North Cave on 20th and 14 Dotterel at Buckton; Spurn produced another Barred Warbler also on 20th, but most attention here focussed on the sea. A Sabine's Gull was a satisfying find, but more of a spectacle was surely the evening roost movement of terns; 30,000 Common Terns were logged south, amongst which were 25 Black Terns. A Spotted Crake appeared at Spurn on 21st; wader interest the same day was provided by a Pectoral Sandpiper at Filey Dams, 24 Dotterel at Aldbrough and a flock of 3000 Black-tailed Godwits at Paull Holme Strays. A ringtail Montagu's Harrier flew through Grimwith Reservoir on 22nd, whilst a flock of ten Little Egrets at Paull Holme Strays on 23rd was a county record. A small ridge of high pressure established at the start of the final week and light, onshore winds on 25th drifted a Greenish Warbler to Kilnsea and a Corncrake to Filey; 13 Common Buzzards overflew Southfield Reservoir on the same day. Single Wryneck and Barred Warbler were new at Spurn on 26th, but the count of 11,600 Guillemots on the sea off Filey further illustrated one of the month's main features; a large influx of herring into coastal waters offered some of the best feeding opportunities for decades; in addition to aforementioned auks exploiting the resource, terns and Little Gull numbers continued to rise into early September. Roseate Tern numbers were highest on Filey Brigg, with 23 logged on 28th, while 2500 Little Gulls were at Hornsea the following day. August closed with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Fairburn on the penultimate day and another at Scaling Dam on 31st.

SEPTEMBER

Attention on the coast continued to be focussed on the large gatherings of terns and gulls; a county-record 29 Roseate Terns rested on Filey Brigg on 1st, with 5290 Common Terns off Flamborough the same day. On 2nd an amazing 16,000 Little Gulls roosted on Hornsea Mere in the evening, while 18,000 Common Terns moved south past Spurn late on 3rd, accompanied by 27 Black Terns. A Cory's Shearwater flew south at Flamborough on 7th, while Hornsea logged a Sabine's Gull on 8th. A single Pectoral Sandpiper at Blacktoft on the same date was the forerunner to three present on the reserve over subsequent days. Easterly drift finally appeared at the end of the first week and a Bluethroat at Spurn on 8th was an immediate reward. Another Pectoral Sandpiper appeared at Connonley Ings, Skipton on 9th, while Spurn offered landfall for a Wryneck on 10th and better still, an Ortolan the following day. However, the best bird on 11th was further up the estuary, when survey work led to the discovery of a Kentish Plover near Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull. A juvenile Caspian Gull was just reward for sifting through the gull roost at Wykeham Pits on 14th, but attention reverted to the coast as a high pressure established over Scandinavia. The 15th witnessed the arrival of a Corncrake at Spurn, a Wryneck at Flamborough and Sabine's Gull and Honey Buzzard at Filey. Three Honey Buzzards were over Spurn the next day when two Pectoral Sandpipers were at Whitton Sands. Passerines also featured, with two Yellow-browed Warblers and a Red-backed Shrike at Filey, two Wrynecks at Flamborough and another Yellow-browed Warbler at Spurn. Another Honey Buzzard overflew Spurn on 17th when Red-backed Shrikes were discovered at Scalby Beck and South Gare, while Humber wader enthusiasts enjoyed a Temminck's Stint at Blacktoft and another Pectoral Sandpiper at Paull Holme Strays on 18th. Two Grey Phalaropes south past Long Nab on 19th were another legacy of the north-easterly airflow, while three days later a Sabine's Gull at Rother Valley was a cracking local record. Light easterlies set in from 23rd and a Yellow-browed was immediately discovered at Scarborough, but interest increased on 24th after overnight rain; with four Yellow-broweds at Flamborough, another four at Spurn,

two at Filey, one at Aldbrough and a Red-backed Shrike at Cloughton. Another Yellow-browed filtered into the Dell at Bempton on 26th when a Honey Buzzard flew over Anglers. Next day another Honey Buzzard roosted in Bellflask Woods, although this record relied more on technology than observer skill and could be credited to '*per* radiotransmitter!'

OCTOBER

Westerlies heralded the start of October, although winds switched to the dream direction from 10th for the best part of the week. Unfortunately the latter half of October was unsettled, with winds again from the west. A flock of 6000 Little Gulls off Spurn opened the month, along with a Pectoral Sandpiper on the Humber. However, other highlights of 1st required heightened observer skills and included a first-winter drake American Wigeon at Tophill that remained into 2007 and a 2nd-winter Caspian Gull that roosted at Redmires Reservoir. A Red-breasted Flycatcher grounded at Spurn on 4th, but most action there related to birds heading south; 4850 Pink-feet and 3865 Goldfinch kept the 'vis mig' team happy. A Spotted Crake was unearthed at Bank Island on 5th followed two days later by a Wryneck at Catwick. High pressure started to edge northwards from Germany overnight on 8th; a Yellow-browed Warbler at Spurn on 9th and a Barred Warbler at South Gare and Yellow-browed Warbler at Filey the following day acted as catalysts for a great spell. After easterlies and overnight rain, birders scouring the coast on 11th were rewarded with: six Yellow-broweds, 500 Song Thrush and a Red-breasted Flycatcher at Spurn; a Yellow-browed and 2800 Song Thrush at Flamborough and another Yellow-browed and 1225 Song Thrush at Filey. Inland patch-workers didn't miss out, with a Great White Egret at Swillington, which later toured several inland waters and an American Golden Plover at Old Moor. Nearctic waders seemed incongruous with the easterly airstream, but a White-rumped Sandpiper at Nosterfield on 12th and one, then two, and incredibly eventually three, Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared at Blacktoft from 13th. A Snow Goose flew south with 90 Pink-feet at Spurn on the same date, but it was the Richard's Pipit also at Spurn that was the real portent. By 14th the influence of the high extended into Russia and the birds duly arrived: an Olive-backed Pipit at Spurn stole the headlines there from a Richard's Pipit, Little Bunting and two Yellow-broweds. Further north Holmpton and Buckton chipped in with a Yellow-browed apiece, while Flamborough had three and a Richard's Pipit. However, the very best was saved for Filey, although to be truly accurate a single field there. Three birders attempting to get above thick fog worked a field along the cliff top and found a Richard's Pipit, then a Short-toed Lark and ended the day staring at an Isabelline Wheatear in the same stubble. Although the 15th witnessed an arrival of 5500 Redwing at Spurn, the headlines were grabbed by the one-day appearance of a Cattle Egret at Fairburn. However, focus on 16th was back on the coast as the first decent phylloscs arrived: a Pallas's Warbler at Filey was relegated to back-up, while Radde's Warblers at South Gare and Filey also lost out to a double wing-barred gem in Arndale, Filey. The UK's fourth Two-barred Greenish Warbler delighted most who made the pilgrimage over the following two days. Two Great Grey Shrikes also arrived on 16th, at Long Nab and inevitably Filey. A Red-breasted Flycatcher was new in at Flamborough on 17th, but Filey hit back yet again with a White-rumped Sandpiper at the Dams next day; a Little Bunting at Spurn also on 18th brought this classic spell to a close. Westerlies then featured throughout the latter half of October and things quietened considerably. Nonetheless a Richard's Pipit appeared at Spurn on 23rd when a confiding Barred Warbler was discovered at Flamborough. Another Richard's Pipit made landfall at Spurn on 25th, but inducing more envy were the two 'Lincolnshire' Red-breasted Geese that flew south past the peninsula on 27th. Although immigration on the coast appeared negligible, that it still continued apace, albeit at high altitude, was evidenced by an impressive 30,000 Redwings over Rod Moor and 16,500 over Redmires also on 27th.

NOVEMBER

The month opened with a deep low anchored over the Baltic which dragged strong northerlies down the North Sea. Prime seawatching conditions on the opening day induced a substantial movement: 873 Little Auks, a Slavonian Grebe, a Black-throated and two Great Northern Divers, 11 Sooty Shearwaters and a Long-tailed Skua flew past Flamborough, while further south, Spurn was rewarded with a Storm Petrel. Winds abated on 2nd and unsurprisingly numbers increased as birds attempted to re-orientate back north; Flamborough logged 3927 Little Auks, together with a Grey Phalarope, three Black-throated and three Great Northern Divers and two Red-necked Grebes, while 1036 Little Auks and 1476 Common Scoter tracked north at Spurn. Two Red-necked Grebes, five Black-throated and three Great Northern Divers past Flamborough on 4th were somewhat predictable, although a Balearic Shearwater the same day was late. The northerly airflow was also conducive to passerine immigration and Richard's Pipits made landfall at Filey on 4th and Flamborough two days later; a Raven at Spurn on 5th may also have been continental in origin. A drake Ring-necked Duck appeared on a small pond in Middlesbrough on 6th and made sporadic appearances on differing waters into 2007. A Dusky Warbler at Spurn from 9th was a typically late arrival, while single Grey Phalaropes at Flamborough on 10th and Filey two days later were also in keeping with the season. The American flavour in the north of the county continued when an adult Bonaparte's Gull was discovered on Saltburn beach on 13th; it later relocated back north to Angus. A Grey Phalarope that sought sanctuary on Hornsea Mere on 20th was presumably sick of being buffeted by northerly winds. Autumn ended with a brief flurry with first the discovery of a Richard's Pipit at Spurn on 24th, another at Filey the following day and then a Pallas's Warbler and exceptionally late Common Swift at Spurn on 26th; no doubt the latter was subjected to intense scrutiny!

DECEMBER

In keeping with many recent Decembers, the month was again mild and wet. The first week witnessed strong, gale force westerly winds, but thereafter conditions calmed dramatically. A Leach's Petrel in Filey Bay on 4th presumably hadn't been in the North Sea long; as evidenced by one picked up dead at Pickering the same day and large numbers in the Irish Sea. Eight Cranes west over South Cave on 8th were also unexpected and were later noted over Lincolnshire. Other unseasonal records the same day included Sooty Shearwater and Pomarine Skua south past Spurn and a tardy House Martin over Scarborough. Sifting through loafing ducks at Wheldrake on 9th was rewarded with the discovery of a first-winter American Wigeon which remained into 2007. Also on 9th a dead Leach's Petrel was picked up at Settle, with another recovered at Rotherham a day later. The Lower Derwent Valley proved a further magnet for transatlantic wildfowl on 15th when a drake Green-winged Teal was unearthed on Ellerton Ings. A Storm Petrel was a surprise off Flamborough on 16th, while up the coast the number of Mediterranean Gulls set to winter around Scarborough reached eight. Flamborough attracted a wintering flock of Twite, with 42 on the stubbles there on 18th. Inland a Firecrest at Bingley from 19th was set to winter; although initially raising few eyebrows, this individual would add itself to many 2007 year lists, due to a January discovery of a nearby mega! Six Great Northern Divers and a Slavonian Grebe in Filey Bay from 23rd were an indication of healthy food supply. Recent years have seen a re-evaluation in the winter status of Water Pipits, especially along the Humber Estuary; 12 was an admirable tally in the reed-beds at Blacktoft on Boxing Day. Finally, a Shore Lark at Pule Hill, Halifax on the same date was an ample reward for a birder walking off the Christmas excesses.

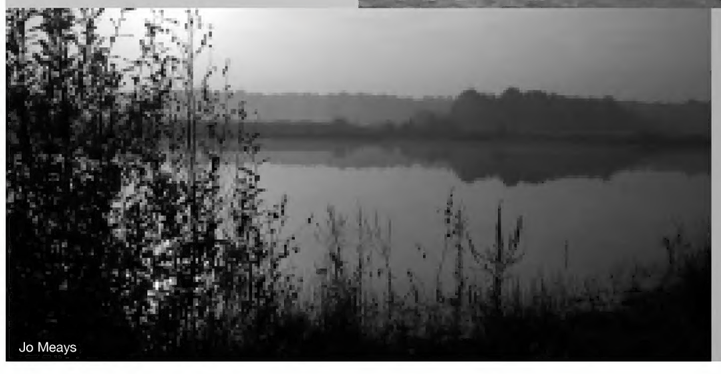
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Les Stubbs

Spurn

Flamborough

Kirsten Smith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Systematic List Explained

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee of the **YNU** and found to be acceptable on the evidence supplied by the observers. Records that require national verification have been submitted and accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (**BBRC**). The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *The British List* (seventh edition, 2007), incorporating the recommendations of the BOU Records Committee 36th Report (*Ibis* 2008: 150, 218-220). The sequence for shanks and gulls has altered, some scientific names have changed, and in particular, Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* has been elevated to full species status. Vernacular as well as international names are now included in *The British List* and these are generally used in this report.

A Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.

B Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently, (not in this report).

C Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.

C1 *Naturalised introduced species* – species that have occurred only because of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (must breed or be proven wanderers to the county)

C2 *Naturalised established species* - species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

C3 *Naturalised re-established species* - species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

C4 *Naturalised feral species* - domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove) / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia.*

C5 *Vagrant naturalised species* - species from established naturalized populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.

C6 *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae.* There are no Yorkshire species in this category.

D Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D only form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals. (See separate section in this Report).

E Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List (unless already included within Categories A, B or C). (See separate section in this Report).

The British List comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C.

The Yorkshire List comprises species in categories A, B and C, but the rules for including Category C species must be applicable to Yorkshire.

Abbreviations used in the Report

AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BOG	Bradford Ornithological Group
BPNR	Beacon Ponds Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
HN	Harrogate Naturalists
LDNNR	Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve
NCW	North Cave Wetlands
NR	Nature Reserve
PHENR	Pulfin and High Eske Nature Reserve
RBBP	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
Res	Reservoir(s)
RVCP	Rother Valley Country Park
SF	Sewage Farm
TLNR	Tophill Low Nature Reserve
YDUBSA	Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Area

Species Totals

Species totals in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last five years, including the current year.

Previous Records

Previous records referred to in the status line in this report refer to the number of previous records, not including the current year, accepted by the **YNU**. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of **BBRC**, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. In a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of Bee-eaters Merops *apiaster* and some waders).

Species Status

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire.

Vagrant
Up to 10 records in total since records began

Rare
0-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years

Scarce
11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years

Uncommon
101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years

Fairly common
More than 1000 records per year

Common
More than 10000 records per year

Abundant
More than 50000 records per year

Conservation Status

Status on the list of birds of conservation concern 2002-2007 from the RSPB's review The Population Status of Birds in the UK is noted.
Red list = high conservation concern: declining UK population or globally threatened
Amber list = medium conservation concern.

UK BAP Species

In 1995, 26 bird species were identified as being deserving of the highest priority within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), because of either threat on a global scale or population declines of 50% or more in the UK in the preceding 25 years. All but one are UK breeding species, the exception being Aquatic Warbler. In 2006, a new UK BAP priority species list was published, operating at the subspecies level. The UK BAP species are labelled in the Systematic List.

Breeding Bird Survey Figures

In 2006, 192 widely distributed 1 x 1 km. squares were surveyed in Yorkshire and Humberside for the Breeding Bird Survey, 107 in North Yorkshire, 24 in South Yorkshire, 27 in West Yorkshire and 34 in East Yorkshire/ Humberside. Although the latter area includes some North Lincolnshire squares, the total number of squares in the region in which the species was recorded is noted on the status line, in order to give some indication of distribution. The trends for the qualifying species in Yorkshire and Humberside from the BBS Survey for 1994-2006 and 2005-2006, are stated (with comparable figures for England in brackets in each case).

WeBS Status

Data has been supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage). Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org).

WeBS Threshold figures:

International and GB threshold figures given represent 1% of the relevant total population. The Ramsar Convention has established that a wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterbird.

Addition to 2005

A Fea's/Zino's Petrel flew leisurely north at Flamborough at 1010hrs on 23rd October, an overcast day with a light south-easterly wind. Initially picked up by Andy Malley and Brett Richards, it was watched at a mile range and remained in view for four minutes. Very few occur in the UK after mid-September, with only two other October records from English waters; however, a late bird tracked north past St Mary's Island and later the Farne Islands on 19th November 1999.

It is unlikely that land-based views will ever allow specific identification between these very closely related species. The features noted here reflected the distance, but nevertheless allowed relatively easy identification to either/or. Size judged slightly bigger than Manx, with longer wings pushed forward at the carpal. Body shape ovular, with a long, tapering tail. Effortless flight, with long glides on bowed wings, punctuated by a few, rapid wing-beats. Occasionally it gained height during a glide and doubled back on itself in an anticlockwise, elliptical trajectory.

The upperparts looked mid/dark grey, with pure white underparts extending onto the armpits and obviously blackish underwings (AM Clewes: A Malley: B Richards *et al.*).

This constituted the ninth site record, following the first on 6th September 1991, when two flew north. No fewer than six have occurred since the turn of the millennium, including three in 2002. The first of these on 26th August later flew north close inshore past Filey Brigg, the only county record away from Flamborough.

Fea's Petrel ©
Richard Dale

Common Sandpiper (River Ure) ▸ Barry Byatt

Systematic List

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* **AC2**
AMBER LIST: uncommon resident breeder and winter visitor in all VC's. BBS 11/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375
The breeding population appears to be stable or increasing slightly. Local movements for moulting occur, but are poorly understood.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Beal Carrs	20	15	20	47	14	–	–	–	10	20	12	24
Brandesburton	47	4	27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	9
Fairburn Ings	132	118	147	35	149	151	127	249	286	–	174	–
Hay-a-Park GP	5	2	–	5	–	–	15	24	24	26	26	16
Hornsea Mere	86	72	91	37	165	264	325	213	184	96	–	81
Lower Derwent NNR	89	60	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Humber	34	40	23	8	28	2	62	71	88	207	145	13
Old Moor	–	–	30	–	30	–	55	55	55	25	25	47
Pugneys CP	18	17	16	26	34	52	58	59	17	19	33	17
Pulfin & High Eske	27	40	30	32	40	43	–	–	12	–	–	–
Ripon RC	27	23	18	19	14	12	11	19	6	12	11	22
R. Tees, Stockton	47	51	60	50	47	39	47	54	43	30	27	27
Rother Valley CP	47	36	28	–	–	16	–	–	11	–	–	48
Rotherham Cut	21	70	55	28	53	40	–	–	–	–	56	–
South Tees	8	7	9	5	4	20	5	12	12	25	18	13
Swillington Ings	57	54	34	18	25	34	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	9	10	10	10	11	10	24	25	21	22	80	37
Wintersett Res	7	4	7	6	23	11	16	15	32	33	11	29

Higher counts in the first half of the year included 19 birds at Seamer Road Mere on 2nd January, up to seven at Gouthwaite Res between January and March, 30 at Pulfin & High Eske NR on 23rd January, 25 at North Duffield Carrs on 29th January, 24 at Otley Weir on 21st February, 27 at North Duffield Carrs on 29th April, 30 at Potteric Carr NR on 18th May and 30 Welton Water on 9th July.

A total of 77 breeding pairs reported from 52 sites across the county, though not all of these were successful. Breeding reported from the following locations; in the Wintersett area there was a total of six pairs, with two pairs on the Top Res and single pairs on Park Lake, Walton Hall, Ellis Laithe and Moorhouse Lane Ponds. Only four nests were successful hatching sixteen cygnets. A pair at Dead Eye, Cononley hatched seven cygnets on 28th May. Three pairs were on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal between Kildwick and Snaygill, including a pair with five cygnets near Bradley. At Farnhill a pair hatched three cygnets in July, although it is thought that none survived. At Otley Wetlands NR three pairs hatched eleven cygnets; five cygnets were also reported from Knotford Nook. Pairs raised four cygnets at Stockbridge NR and a pair with four cygnets was seen on a private lake in the Bradford area. Five pairs bred at Pugneys, but only three of these were successful. Also bred at Bretton Lakes (six cygnets), Castle Howard, Cold Hill Farm Pond, Copgrove (five cygnets), RSPB Fairburn Ings (nine pairs), Harthill Res, Hay-a-Park (five cygnets), Lowther Lake, Mickletown Ings, Potteric Carr NR (six cygnets), Rodley NR (six cygnets), Saltmarshe Delph (seven cygnets), Scarthingwell Lake, Seamer Road Mere (two pairs), Swillington Ings (ended in failure), Thrybergh CP, Treeton Dyke, Woodlesford, Walton Colliery NR (four cygnets) and Wykeham Lakes (five cygnets). Elsewhere a pair bred at Kelk Lake for the first time ever, raising a single cygnet. At North Cave a pair bred for the first time in many years fledging three cygnets and a pair built a nest in the middle of the River Wharfe at Thorp Arch SF. At Spurn the usual pair was present all year and bred, but none of the four young survived. A pair bred at Smallways, where five cygnets were hatched but only three survived to the year-end. Along Pocklington Canal three pairs bred between Canal Head and Coats Bridge. At Bellflask Quarry a pair hatched four cygnets but a fox killed them all. Bridge Hewick Ripon

(hatched one cygnet, but was dead by July), Flaxby GC (five cygnets, but only two survived till the end of the year), Kirkby Malzeard (four cygnets, all predated by fox), Light water Valley (four cygnets though only one survived), at Marfield NR the female of the pair died on the nest and a nesting attempt by a pair at Ripon Marina ended in failure when the nest was flooded.

Some of the higher counts made during the final half included a flock of c.30 birds flying west over Mytholmroyd on 23rd August. At Old Moor up to 55 were present between July and September, while the maximum count at Spurn was seven on 15th August. Elsewhere there were 30 at Potteric Carr NR on 18th August, 100 at Welton Water 18th September, 29 at Knotford Nook on 30th October, 24 at Potteric Carr NR on 10th October, 150 at Welton Water on 9th November, 32 birds at Knotford Nook on 20th November, 32 at Leventhorpe Hall Pond in November/December, 26 at Welton Water on 18th December and 27 at Thrybergh Banks on 3rd December.

BEWICK'S (TUNDRA) **SWAN** *Cygnus columbianus* **A**
AMBER LIST and UK BAP species: scarce migrant and winter visitor in declining numbers.
The Eurasian race *bewickii* breeds in the tundra of the Russian high Arctic and winters in the Netherlands and in increasing numbers at just a few favoured sites in Britain. It is becoming increasingly scarce in the county, possibly due to a lack of cold weather movements of birds wintering on the continent.

In January a bird was present in the Whooper Swan herd at North Duffield Carrs and two birds were associating with Whoopers at Hillam on 29th. Elsewhere two birds were seen flying in to join the Whooper Swans at Beal Carrs on 2nd February, though twenty minutes later they flew off northeast. On 2nd March what may have been the same two birds were again back with the Whoopers at Beal Carrs. Also during March a skein of thirty-six flew over Stanley Ferry Flash on 12th and three birds along with two Whooper Swans were at Cleasby GP on 31st.

The first autumn record was of two birds heading south off Filey on 6th November. Also in November two were at Rother Valley CP on 11th and on 21st two adults joined the Whooper Swans at North Duffield Carrs, with one bird remaining here with the Whoopers until the end of the year. Seven flew south over the sea at Spurn on 23rd November and the final record was a single in a stubble field at Blacktoft Sands on 17th December.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* **A E**
AMBER LIST: uncommon migrant in increasing numbers and winter visitor Oct – April
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 210: GB threshold 57
Breeds from Iceland east across northern Eurasia, with Britain's wintering population consisting mostly of Icelandic birds, but some Fennoscandanavian birds have been recorded in eastern England. A small herd winters in the Lower Derwent valley, but over 1000 now winter on the Ouse Washes and some of these migrate through the county, which no doubt contributes to the increasing numbers being reported.

Peak counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Duffield Carrs	46	44	59	45	0	0	0	0	0	27	91	113
Old Moor Wetlands	10	12	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Beal Carrs	46	30	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	2

The largest herd at the start of the year was at North Duffield Carrs, where there were 46 in January and reached a peak of 59 in March. Other smaller flocks were reported from Old Moor Wetlands, Beal Carrs and at Pulfin & High Eske where two birds were present on 1st January, increasing to five on 21st January and then ten on 11th February, which were then present until 1st April. At Hornsea Mere a small number of birds flew into roost each evening, including four adults on 27th January. In February there were ten adults on 5th, thirteen adults on 10th, eight adults on 18th, declining to six adults on 25th. In March there were six adults on 4th and 5th with just one adult occasionally present until 26th.

Elsewhere other herds were reported from the Carrs west of Sherburn where up to seven birds were present in January, 15 in February and the last record here was of three on 23rd March. At Fairburn Ings, recorded sporadically throughout the first three months, with a maximum of eight on 7th February. The last record was of seven on 10th March. Up to four adults over-wintered in the Aire valley being seen on a number of different sites including Leventhorpe Hall, Little Preston, Lowther Lake or Swillington Ings and were present until 23rd February. A herd was also present between Hillam and Gateforth where 41 were present on 15th January, declining to 35 on 29th January and 31 on 12th March.

In January and February smaller numbers were also reported from several other localities, though most did not stay for long. There were four adults at Nosterfield NR 19th, eight at Bowshaw Whams on 20th, two were at Wykeham Lakes on 22nd, while on the same date sixteen flew west over Wintersett Res and four adults were on Broomhead Res. Unusually two birds were taking bread at Golden Acre Park, Bramhope on 28th. In February eight flew south east at Wilsic on 2nd, two adults were on Gouthwaite Res on 8th, ten were at Bingley Green on 16th, nine were at Ripon Race Course and 13 were at Farnham GP on 19th. Four were at Little Preston, Ripon on 20th, two were at Gouthwaite on 22nd and 14 adults were at Rother Valley CP on 25th.

Spring passage was very much in evidence in March, with several large flocks and family parties noted moving overhead, including 37 over Swillington Ings on 1st, while others broke up their migration with a brief stop, such as a group of ten at Silsden Res on 9th. On 12th twelve flew north past Filey Brigg and stopped for a rest on the sea, while on the same day seven were at Harewood Park, 37 flew north over Swillington Ings and what may have been the same birds were then seen on Anglers CP. On 13th four birds at Staveley NR were chased off by Mute Swans and 24 flew north over Carlton Village, five adults were at Langsett Res on 14th and two birds were feeding in fields near Scaling Dam on 17th. On 18th one flew over Staveley NR, four adults were at Farnham GP and later that same day they were at Hay-a-Park. On the same date 24 flew north over Swillington Ings, two were at Golden Acre Park and 29 flew west over Silverwood Lagoons. On 19th 38 flew north at Northowram, 35 flew over Old Moor Wetlands, 18 flew northwest over Rother Valley CP and this group may have been the same over Broomhead Res, while 56 were at Howden Res. Twenty-eight were at Ogden and three were at Old Moor Wetlands on 20th. On the 21st five flew over Sprotbrough Flash and 22 were on Agden Res. On 22nd 32 were on Wintersett Res, while a further 54 flew over. On the same date 66 passed over Old Moor, 55 flew north over Harley, which may have the same group seen flying north over Hurlfield Sheffield, 34 were at Strines Res and 70 were on Agden Res. On the 23rd two groups of seven and five flew north-west over Wintersett Res, two birds were at Lindley Wood Res and 29 were at Leighton Res.

In April a herd of up to 40 were present from 2nd-5th on floodwater at Green Hammerton (nr York) and a record site count of 65 flew west over Pulfin & High Eske on 2nd, 40 flew north-west over Dringhouses on 4th, 31 were at Blacktoft Sands on 11th, 17 flew north over Buttercrambe, York on 12th and two were at Golden Acre Park on 18th. The final spring record of a wild bird was a single at Baitings on 3rd May.

The only report during the summer was of the single 'plastic' bird, which was present at Hornsea Mere throughout the year.

The first of the autumn were two birds heading south at Spurn on 5th October and two were at Fairburn Ings the following day. Eight birds were at Flask Lane, Ripon on 8th and coastal passage continued with 14 south off Filey on 9th. An adult joined the Mute Swans at Farnham GP on 12th. On 15th two were in an oil seed rape field near Withernsea. There were no further records until 21st when nine were in fields just north of Filey with another seven recorded heading south there the same day. Elsewhere ten were at Whitby GC, six were observed heading south off Flamborough, and a party of seven birds arrived at North Duffield Carrs.

One of the biggest movements of the autumn occurred from 22nd October when a new maximum day count was set at Spurn with 117 south. Elsewhere five were at Filey Dams and 16 headed south off Filey Brigg, while inland six flew south-east over Farnhill Moor, six were at Skipton SF, two adults and a first-winter were at North Cave Wetlands, 12 were at Cleasby GP and eight were at Ocean View Farm. On the 23rd seven arrived at Beal Carrs, a party of 13, including a juvenile, briefly dropped on East Lea at Filey, three flew over Northowram, two adults were at Swillington Ings, an adult was at Broomhill Flash, 13 were at Filey Dams, 15 were at Blacktoft Sands, while 14 were recorded moving off Flamborough and 39 off Spurn. On 24th two were present at Fly Flats, Silsden Res and at Warley Moor Res and two adults and four juveniles were at North Cave.

There were two south off Filey on 25th and a single bird was at Blacktoft Sands. On 26th seven were off Flamborough and nine adults were at Potteric Carr. On 27th four were at Filey and single birds were at Beal Carrs and on the sea off Kettleness. On the 28th 14 were off Flamborough, while there were four adults at Nosterfield NR on the same date. On 29th eight were at Ripon Race Course, 21 flew south over Farnham GP, 28 were seen off Spurn, six including four adults, were at Redmires Top Dam and a single bird was on a flooded field at Flamborough. On 30th three adults were at North Cave and six were off Filey on the 31st.

In November one to five birds were reported from many sites including Rother Valley CP, Old Moor Wetlands, Redmires Res, Rod Moor, Broomhill Flash, Bellflask Quarry, Wintersett Res, Ponden, Thrybergh CP, Scaling Dam, Nosterfield NR, Staveley NR, South Gare Blast Furnace Pool, Fewston Res, up to two were present at North Cave Wetland for most of the month, 14 flew over Swillington Ings on 14th and throughout October and November up to 12 were at Fairburn Ings. Coastal records included two off Flamborough on 6th and 10th, five were recorded heading south off Filey and then Spurn on the 13th, two south 15th and eleven south off Filey on 22nd.

By December most birds were on their wintering grounds and so there was little movement. However up to two were regularly seen at Blacktoft Sands and at Smallways, with occasional sightings elsewhere; three at Hornsea Mere and a single at Old Moor on 1st, two were at North Cave on 9th, with twelve birds including six adults here on 12th, four flew south at Soil Hill on 17th, eight were at Pulfin & High Eske and two accompanied Mute Swans at Atwick on 17th, two adults were at Knotford Nook and eight flew over Scaling Dam on 18th and up to six were at North Cave Wetlands.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* **A** 6,54,52,21,19

AMBER LIST: scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds across the northern Palearctic, where divided into a number of subspecies, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters.

BEAN GOOSE *sp.* *Anser fabalis sp.*

The following records not attributed to a specific race: singles at Spurn on 9th January and 21st December and two at Rother Valley CP on 25th December.

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis rossicus* **A**

A lone bird was accompanied a White-fronted Goose in the Triangle at Spurn on 12th January and five were present around Wykeham Lakes from 22nd January to at least 14th February. Other wintering birds were present at Hornsea Mere, where two birds were present from 1st February to 5th March and two birds were also present at Low Skirlington from 5th–16th February. In January a single was at Patrington Haven 14th and 15th, two birds were at North Duffield Carrs on 4th January and two birds were at Atwick on 20th February.

The only record for the second half was an adult at Nosterfield NR for 30 minutes on 22nd December.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* **A**

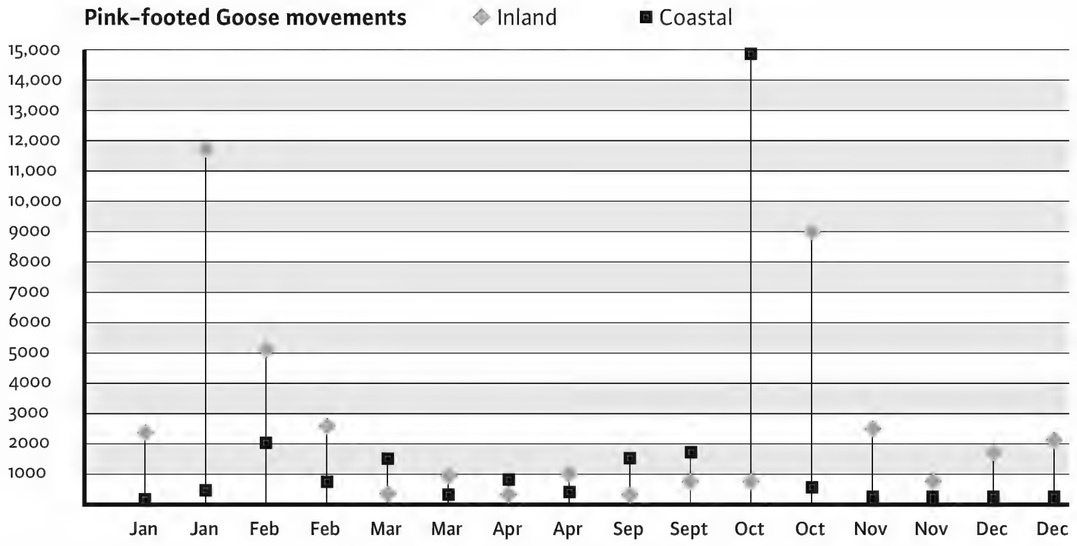
AMBER LIST: fairly common migrant and winter visitor Sept – March

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2400: GB threshold 2400

This species breeds in east Greenland and central Iceland and winters in Britain, and a population also breeds in Svalbard, mostly wintering in the Low Countries. Wintering numbers have been increasing in Britain for the past 25 years, and more passage birds are being seen in Yorkshire on migration to wintering grounds in south Lincolnshire and Norfolk, with the population on the Humber also increasing to between 5500 to 6500 birds this year, although these only occasionally visit the north bank to feed.

The 12th January saw the first large scale movement, when several skeins totaling 1,780 were noted flying over the county, including: 230 over Barden Scale, 175 over Beal Carrs, 200 over Fairburn Ings, 100 over Gledhow, 270 over Old Moor Wetlands, 200 along the Aire Valley and 370 over Walshaw Dean. The next large movement occurred between the 18th and 31st January, with a peak of 5,906 north-west on 22nd including: 150 over Cononley, 300 over Gadings Dam, 500 over Thorganby Ings (Lower Derwent NNR), 350 over Ringstone Edge, 400 over Netherton, 450 over Wilsden, 550 over Moor Piece, 500 over Marley Hall Farm and 1,430 over Lighthazzles. Other large skeins in January included 250 over Sheffield on 19th, 350 over Jumble Hole Clough on 24th, 700 over Elland GP and 421 over Wintersett Res on 29th and 200 over North Cave on 30th. The final movement occurred between the 8th and 22nd February, but reached a peak on the 11th when 3,360 birds were logged including: 400 over Cononley, 530 over Swillington Ings and 800 over Fairburn Ings. Other noteworthy February skeins included 380 over Old Moor Wetlands and 300 over Shibden on the 14th. A skein of 120 north over Scarborough on 5th May was the last significant skein, while a single at North Cave on 23rd of the same month was the latest. While typically most movement occurred overland, there was a smaller coastal passage; 1,315 flew north at Spurn on 16th February and 1,060 birds on 3rd of March, included 590 past Spurn. In total number 21,585 birds were noted north inland, while coastal sites contributed a further 4,751.

A skein of 22 over Swillington Ings and 15 south off Spurn on 25th September were the first to return. The 29th heralded the first large arrival with a best of 556 south over Filey and a further 389 flew south there on 3rd October. The movement peaked on 4th with the following site totals: 1,000 off Scarborough, 1,210 off Flamborough, 990 off Filey and an impressive 4,850 off Spurn. Undoubtedly much duplication would be involved here. During the rest of October the best counts were 811 south over Filey and 2,080 at Spurn on 7th followed by 1,300 over Spurn the following day; on 22nd southbound skeins tallied 310 at Scarborough, 693 at Flamborough and 1,350 over Spurn; while on 29th 705 flew south past Filey and 1,600 off Spurn. This movement had declined by November, as most birds appeared to have moved to their winter grounds in East Anglia; 120 over Filey on 22nd November was one of the last three-figure skeins. The grand totals logged south between October and December was 3,510 over Scarborough, 6,554 over Filey and 20,500 over Spurn.



Autumn migration was not just confined to the coast on 3rd October 110 were noted over Blacktoft Sands, and 300 over Thorganby amongst others. The next day skeins of a 100+ were noted over Kelk Lake, Osbaldwick (York) and Glaisdale Village and 258 flew over Thrybergh CP in two skeins. On 9th 800 were at Caldene Fields, with 109 still here on the 16th. Skeins were noted passing overhead throughout October including on the 22nd when 300 were noted over Farnhill, 350 over Skipton SF, 220 over Old Moor, 140 over Scout Dike Res, 100 over Fairburn Ings, 160 over North Cave and 750 at Swillington Ings. This movement peaked on the 23rd when 765 flew over Beal Carrs, *c.*1000 over Fairburn Ings, 230 over Shibden, 600 along the Wheatley Valley and there was still 750 at Swillington Ings and 320 at Caldene Fields. The last big inland movement of the autumn was on 29th October when 630 flew over Rod Moor, 660 over Rother Valley CP, 400 over Redmires Res and 300 were at Caldene Fields. There were two movements in December however as birds moved between traditional wintering areas in Lancashire and East Anglia. The first movement peaked on 9th when 200 were over Northowram, 158 over Todmorden, 100 Soil Hill and several smaller skeins were also noted. The second movement occurred between 16th to 26th, with 200+ over RVCP on 16th, 100 over Sheffield 19th, 100 over Broomhill 19th, 400 over Fairburn Ings on 20th, 200 over Hove Edge, 470 over Luddenden Dene, 200 over Mount Tabor, 200 over Woodlesford and 175 over Shipley Glen all on 21st.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* **A**

AMBER LIST and UK BAP species: scarce winter visitor and migrant

All records are assumed to be of the Russian breeding population *albifrons*, which winters in small numbers in southern England, unless stated otherwise, as the Greenland race *flavirostris* is a rare bird in the county.

In January four circled Spurn before continuing south on 5th and 19 initially headed south, then back north, there on 9th. One in the Triangle at Spurn on 12th accompanied a Bean Goose. In the Hull Valley two first-winters were at Skirlington on 13th with another in a mixed flock of geese at Atwick on 20th. A first-winter was again present in the Low Skirlington area between 5th and 16th February and a single made sporadic appearances at Hornsea Mere between 13th February and 5th March. Elsewhere Wykeham Lakes hosted a long staying first-winter, which was from 9th February to 28th May.

The first of autumn was an adult at Spurn on 13th October and presumably the same around Easington from 16th to 24th. Nosterfield NR attracted four over the 21st and 22nd October, when 12 were at North Duffield Carrs. On the 24th eight birds flew south over Filey CP. Single birds were then present at Nosterfield NR on 28th and 29th, while two were at Paul Holme Strays between 28th October and 2nd November. An adult remained at Skirlington from 1st to 13th November, with two south at Spurn on 3rd and a single was at Flask Lake on 4th. Also in November a first-winter was at Hornsea Mere on 12th, with five adults present here over the 21st and 22nd and one remained the following day; two were also here between 5th and 15th December. Other December sightings included one with Greylags at Rimswell between 14th and 18th and a single at Staveley on 31st.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons flavirostris* **A**

Unusually an adult of the Greenland race remained at Bank Island (Lower Derwent NNR) from 25th to 30th October.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* **AC2 C4**
AMBER LIST: fairly common feral breeder and winter visitor. BBS 34/192
At record levels nationally, the county's largely sedentary feral population is still expanding both in range in the north and overall size in the east. Six of the top ten sites of national importance are in the county, Nosterfield NR, Lower Derwent NNR, Tophill Low, Eccup Res, Bolton-on-Swale GP and the Humber Estuary. Occasional migrants may occur.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Allerthorpe GP	200	72	10	45	52	45	48	40	55	135	150	274
Brandesburton	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	65	6	222	55
Bolton-on-Swale	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	500	301	50	–	–
East Park Hull	142	118	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Eccup Res	–	800	–	–	–	–	–	1687	1237	853	–	500
Fairburn Ings	38	11	18	11	54	113	96	282	31	55	16	–
Farnham GP	162	300	–	–	–	36	–	78	170	800	160	1200
Gouthwaite Res	51	166	144	125	159	586	493	8	10	8	20	16
Hay-a-Park GP	75	94	30	11	120	160	300		576	307	33	825
Hornsea Mere	18	148	87	115	615	1145	390	615	500	151	200	210
Lingham Lake	767	250	340	30	186	430	540	2200	1550	2100	133	500

Some of the larger first-half counts included 197 at Lindley Wood Res and 150 at North Cave on New Year's Day. A skein of c.2000 flew over High Batts NR on 12th, 150 at Skirlington on 13th, 322 at Harewood Park on 15th, 142 at East Park, Hull on 21st, 300 headed south-west over Skipton SF on 22nd, 149 were at Beal Carrs on 23rd, 281 at Smallways 24th, up to 120 frequented Thorne Moors during January and c.1000 were at Bellflask. In February 210 were at Newsham Pond on 5th, 556 in the Dearne Valley on 11th and 121 at Catwick and 130 at Wansford both on the 26th. In March 150 were at Ripon Parks, 140 were in the Brough Airfield/Welton Waters area on 4th and 183 were at Gatwick on 8th.

Some of the larger post-breeding flocks in August included 150 at Kearby Pond on 5th, 219 at Lindley Wood Res on 31st, 330 at Blacktoft Sands on 19th, 200 Nicholson's Lagoon on 24th, 200 at Skipsea on 19th and 166 were at Wheldrake Ings on 31st. Numbers peaked at both North Cave and at Wykeham Lakes in September when there were counts of 700+ at the former on 15th and 350 at the latter on 4th. Other large September counts included 130 at RVCP on the 20th, 306 at Fairburn Ings, c.1500 at Bellflask, 250 at Ripon Parks, 100 at Studley Park, 200 at Paull Holme Strays, 120 at Skirlington, 140 at Broomfleet, 200 at Thorne Moors and 300 at Grimwith Res. In October 500+ were on Castle Howard on 16th, 220 at Round Hill Res on 8th, 220 at Marfield NR on 29th and 360 at Paull Holme Strays on the 30th. In November counts included: 320 at Kelk Lake on 11th, 350 at Ripon Race Course on 17th, 101 at Sandwith Moor on 18th, 222 at Catwick on 19th, 120 at Thorne Moors on 14th. In December there were 600 at Thornborough on 27th, 1200 at Farnham on 17th, 500 in the Lowthorpe/Harpham area on 17th, 500 also at Wheldrake Ings on 7th, 280 at Pulfin & High Eske on 26th and up to 220 were at Skirlington all month. A new day record was set at Spurn when 54 landed on the Humber before leaving to the north on 22nd December.

Bred at the following sites: at Wykeham Lakes (five broods), Scaling Dam (29 pairs had 291 goslings), Lockwood Beck (ten broods totalling 65 goslings), Fairburn Ings (two pairs bred), Pulfin & High Eske (eight pairs successful), North Cave Wetlands (at least six pairs successful). Several pairs bred on the village pond at Burton Agnes, later seen during the post-breeding moult on Kelk Lake. At Allerthorpe Old GP three pairs nested, but only one was successful and the sole gosling was kidnapped and raised by a Swan Goose! Breeding also reported

from Walshaw Dean, Fly Flats (two pairs), Kex Gill Quarry (three pairs), Otley Wetland (two pairs), Warley Moor Res (two pairs), Dowley Gap, Weecher Reservoir, Dallowgill Moor, Thorney Grain Moor, Gouthwaite Res, Roundhill Res and Bellflask Quarry, where a badger predated a nest with 11 eggs. Other breeding sites included Flasks Lake, High Batts NR (two pairs), Light Water Valley (six pairs), Bishop Thornton, Farnham GP, Hay-a-Park GP, Lingham Lake, Cold Edge Dams, Wintersett Res, Old Moor, Strines Res, Potteric Carr, Beal Carrs, at Midhope Res, Rother Valley CP, Sand Hutton and Castle Howard. A survey of the City of York on 29th May produced 271 adults and 60 goslings in 19 broods. Breeding also confirmed at Welton Waters, Brough Haven, Watton, Hornsea Mere, Bransholme Fishing Ponds, Tophill Low, Allerton Park, Burley/Hawksworth Moor, Dunkirk Pond, Farnley Balance Res, Harewood Park, Knotford Nook, Langbar, Lower Barden Reservoir, Lindley Wood Reservoir, Nicholson's Lagoons, McCann NR, Routh, Staveley NR, Skelton Lake and Swillington Ings.

An albino was part of the Greylag flock at Beal Carrs from the 23rd January –25th February and then seen again from the 22nd-26th March. What may have been the same bird was then present at Skirlington on 31st December. While a Greylag paired to a "domestic" goose at Thrybergh CP through June and July, as was a bird in the Castle Museum area in York.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* **AC2** 0,0,0,1,1
Feral breeder and vagrant; three previous individuals considered of natural origin
Breeds in Arctic North America, wintering along the Atlantic coast of U.S.A. Local feral populations make adjudication of genuine vagrants difficult, and most occurrences are dealt with in the Category E section of this report.

A white-morph adult flew south at Spurn on 13th October in the company of 90 Pink-footed Geese (AJG: AAH *et al.*); presumably this same individual was first seen in Yorkshire tracking north from East Anglian wintering grounds in May 2005.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* **C2**
Fairly common feral breeder, migrant and winter visitor. BBS 36/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375
Largely sedentary, some non-breeding or failed breeders from Yorkshire migrate to the Beauly Firth to moult.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	16	56	35	24	44	110	227	61	–	168	59	160
Catwick GP	1	63	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	87	80	92
Copgrove, Ripon	45	29	5	17	–	–	11	–	11	109	–	–
East Park Hull	187	132	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44
Fairburn Ings	381	176	180	50	225	246	609	534	202	89	508	–
Farnham GP	122	200	90	68	90	132	97	325	250	85	151	101
Grimwith Res	325	345	362	274	221	294	379	313	354	305	353	385
Hay-a-Park GP	51	10	20	26	8	60	40	–	110	50	103	113
Harewood Park	888	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	456	1209	594
Hornsea Mere	43	92	64	95	410	640	84	110	94	34	10	16
Lingham Water	7	95	45	16	60	60	82	193	160	190	7	39
Lower Derwent NNR	504	133	151	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malham Tarn	10	12	5	6	4	175	140	14	33	47	40	20

More numerous and widespread in the west of the county, some of the larger flocks included 969 at Eccup Res and 888 at Harewood Park in January, 750 at Royd Moor Res in February and 650 at Ingbirchworth Res in March.

From June birds start to assemble to commence moult; a count of 175 at Malham Tarn on 24th June was the highest ever there.

Bred at the following sites: Castle Howard, Fenny Common/Barnside Moor, Anglers CP (12 pairs), Snailsden Res, at Malham Tarn, Castleshaw, Shibden Park (Halifax), at Old Moor Wetlands (90 goslings from 16 broods), Walton Colliery, Sprotbrough Flash, North Cave, at Kelk Lake (first breeding record), Allerthorpe Old GP 4 pairs, Tophill Low, Primrose Valley at Filey. A goose survey in York revealed 124 adults with 36 goslings from nine broods. Eight pairs bred at Fairburn Ings. In the Harrogate area breeding was reported from Marfield NR, Bellflask Quarry, Nosterfield NR, Throstle Nest Farm (Bishop Thorpe), Farnham GP, Hay-a-Park, Scar Gill Res, John o' Gaunts Res, Ingmanthorpe Lake and at Farnhill Ings. In the Halifax area breeding was reported from Cold Edge Dams, Fly Flats, Upper and Lower Gorple, Lee Dam, Walshaw Dean and Widdop. From the Leeds area breeding was reported from eleven sites, including Swillington Ings where several nests were known to have been predated by foxes. In Bradford recording area successful breeding was noted at two more locations than in 2005, being reported from Otley Wetland, St. Ives, Kex Gill Quarry, the reservoirs at Lower Laithe, Warley Moor, Thornton Moor, John o' Gaunt's and Hewenden, and from the Rombald's Moor and Denton Moor complexes.

During the second half of the year there were 150 at Winscar Res on 25th July and in August there were 250 at Walton Colliery NR on 3rd, 173 were at Yeadon Tarn on 4th and 200 were at Kearby Pond on 20th. In September there were 380 at Royd Moor Res on 18th and 543 at Eccup Res on 19th. In October there were 465 at Harewood Park on 8th, which had increased to 1200 by 19th November. Also in November there were 220 at Broomhill Flash and 350 at Ingbirchworth Res on 16th. There were 200 at Bretton Lakes on 8th and 100 were at Bolton-on-Swale 11th. In December there were 400 at Wheldrake Ings on 7th and 594 at Harwood Park on 17th.

Two individuals of the one of the smaller forms were at Broomhill Flash in March; at least one of these birds has been present in the area since November 2005 (DJB, JH, JMT *et al.*).

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **AC2E**

AMBER LIST: uncommon migrant and winter visitor Oct – March. Occasional feral breeder

Breeds in east Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, the Baltic and high arctic Russia, with wintering birds in eastern England from Svalbard and immigrants possibly from the continent of more eastern birds. Feral birds also occur and breed on the Humber; likely escapes are treated separately at the end of this report, although undoubtedly some listed below are of questionable origin.

In January singles were at Anglers CP on 12th and Blacktoft Sands on 13th, followed by two at Royd Moor Res on 16th. In February lone birds were at Broomhill Flash on the 26th, Bretton Lake on the 24th March and a bird flew south at Spurn on the 26th April.

In September singles at Anglers CP on 1st, Flasks Lake on 2nd, one flew west at Gouthwaite Res on 7th, two were present at Gatwick GP from 1st September to 1st October. Also in October an adult and a first-year were at Rother Valley on 2nd, one flew south with Pink-footed Geese over Spurn on 4th, two flew north-west over the Narrows at Spurn on the 23rd and two were at Brandsburton on 8th. At the start of November a single was at Bank Island, with others present at Pugneys CP on 7th, Ingbirchworth Res on 12th and Bretton Lake on 26th. In December, one was at Anglers CP on 1st and 19th, Eastrington Ponds on 5th, one was with Greylags in the Lowthorpe / Harpham area on 17th (with two on the 31st), nineteen flew into Hay-a-Park in misty conditions on 19th and two days later one flew west with Pink-footed Geese over Pellon and two were on the sea off Spurn.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* **A**

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla bernicla*

AMBER LIST and UK BAP species: uncommon migrant and winter visitor

Webs Status – Int. threshold 2200: GB threshold 981

Breeds in arctic Russia and winters on the southern North Sea coast; numbers have declined recently, although counts of UK wintering birds increased this year.

Peak counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spurn Point	350	450	450	320	234	2	4	1	14	380	213	309
North Humber	472	536	113	239	83	0	0	0	7	384	221	233

Birds were present on the Humber at Spurn almost daily through the winter months, with occasional sightings also being made through the summer.

Away from Spurn, the coastal watch points reported a quiet start to the year. In January, a single bird was on Filey Brigg on 9th followed by two past Filey Brigg on 27th, while seven flew past Flamborough on 28th and one was at Blacktoft Sands on 29th. In March there was a lone bird in Filey Bay on 4th and on 11th 23 flew north and 19 flew south off Filey in strong northerlies. A lone bird was at Filey Dams from 25th March to 25th April and one was off Flamborough on 3rd May. A bird fed on pasture fields inland of Filey on 15th June. Along the Humber singles were at Paull Holme Stray from 5th – 8th April, one was at McCann NR on 7th April and 21 flew east along the Humber at Welton Waters on 15th April.

Unusually singles reported from several inland locations, including a bird that made a brief visit to North Duffield Carrs on 15th January. One was at Tophill Low on New Year's Day, with probably the same present from 20th January to 26th February. A single appeared at Fairburn Ings on 7th March; perhaps the same was then discovered feeding in fields at Swillington Ings on 27th March and the following day a first-winter was at Rother Valley.

It was a disappointing autumn, with just three records in September; nine north off Marine Drive Scarborough on 8th and a single bird north past Cowbar and five on Whitby GC on 16th. In October, singles were on the beach at Skinningrove on 5th, at Hornsea Mere on 10th and one was on the Humber at Paull Holme Strays from 11th-14th. Three were at Wasington Lagoons on 7th, one flew south off South Gare on 14th October and two flew south off Marine Drive the following day. A lone bird took up residence at Filey CP from 13th-28th, with five birds briefly on 15th. Two were off South Gare on 21st and two were at Blacktoft Sands on 29th. October seawatching at Flamborough was disappointing with a mere four singles, while passage at Spurn was limited to just 61 birds between 13th September and 6th November; the highest count was 17 south on 30th October.

November was little better with singles off Marine Drive and Barmston and four past Flamborough all on 2nd. Nine flew north off Marine Drive on 9th, two were on Filey Brigg on 15th and a bird was at Welwick Pump Station on the 23rd. In December most records came from Filey; fifteen flew past on 23rd, four flew south on 24th, two flew south on 25th and fifteen were briefly at Filey CP the next day before they headed south. The only inland record in this period was five at Hay-a-Park GP on 19th December.

Though not a recognised race, a bird resembling a Grey-bellied Brent made sporadic appearances in the Kilnsea/Spurn area from 12th January to 11th March; it seemed to closely associate with a pale-bellied Brent.

Lone birds that were not assigned to a specific race were at Hay-a-Park GP from 26th April to 7th May and at Malham Tarn on 21st; the latter a new species for the area.

PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla hrota*

AMBER LIST: scarce migrant and winter visitor

Breeds in Svalbard and northeast Greenland and on the East Coast it winters almost exclusively at Lindisfarne.

Records in the first-half were confined to: three south at Redcar on 14th January; one at Spurn on 26th-27th, with three there on 31st. In February, singles were recorded on five dates at Spurn, with six present on 5th.

Autumn seawatching produced several records; the first headed north off Filey on 7th September, with two off Flamborough on 10th and a single north off Filey on 15th. In October two flew south at Spurn on 11th with another on the Humber the same day and five flew past Cowbar on 16th. On 2nd November one off Flamborough later headed north past Marine Drive, Scarborough, while on the same date one was on Filey Brigg. Finally two flew past Flamborough on 3rd November.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* **C1E*** 9,11,17,16,14

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has occasionally bred

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium.

In January two were present at Old Moor Wetlands on 20th and what may well have been the same two were present at Castle Dam the following day. There were no further reports until 9th April when three birds flew into Rother Valley CP. Taking up semi-residence they were responsible for a number of sightings in the surrounding area through the summer, being regularly reported from Pit House West. Two of these also made a brief visit to Ulley CP on 17th April. Away from this South Yorkshire enclave a single appeared at Tophill Low on 14th April, with presumably the same the following day at Pulfin and High Eske NR

During the autumn one was at Pugneys CP on 13th October and a bird with an orange ring on its left leg was found at Anglers CP on 1st September and was still present until 2nd October. Two continued to be

recorded from the Rother Valley, Ulley CP areas until at least 13th December. Elsewhere one was at Farnham GP on 7th and 25th September and a single roamed the Nosterfield area during September and October. Three joined the large Greylag/Canada flock at Bellflask Quarry in September, although only two remained to the year end after one was shot. Finally, a single frequented Old Moor on 5th and 6th October.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* **(N C Siberia) AE** 0,0,0,0,2
Vagrant; one previous record
Two adults had been present with the Brent flock across the Humber in Lincolnshire for two weeks before they decided upon a fly-past at Spurn. A handful of lucky observers watched them fly south past the Narrows at 0825hrs on 27th October (PL: AP: RSc *et al.*). There has been only one previous record for Yorkshire, also at Spurn in October 1978.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* **A**
AMBER LIST: uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 15/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3000: GB threshold 782

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	–	58	63	44	119	85	–	20	–	52	45	57
Fairburn Ings	4	25	30	70	31	28	3	4	–	–	3	–
Lower Derwent	51	34	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Cave	80	20		3	4	9	6		1			40
North Humber	1046	1698	1226	1557	820	301	1427	2185	4238	2388	1876	1798
Old Moor	2	11	6	6	4	2	5	15	12	0	2	4
Smallways	7	24	8	21	33	38	44	38	8	–	3	8
South Tees	76	143	272	52	63	151	96	68	37	63	51	68
Spurn Point	18	192	210	258	25	94	101	4	845	1462	200	43
Swillington Ings	29	15	32	35	5	2	–	9	–	–	7	13
Tophill Low	6	7	7	8	3	8	2	–	–	8	–	–

Coastal passage included nine south past Filey Brigg on 15th January and another 18 there the next day, eight past Filey Brigg on 12th February, with 14 north past Scalby Mills also on 12th and 44 east past Spurn on 22nd March with 15 similarly on 13th April.

A pair hatched eleven young at Spurn, two pairs nested along the Scarborough coast with a brood of seven at Scalby Lodge Pond in May. Broods of ducklings were also seen at Scaling Dams, North Cave, at Brough Haven where there were 32 adults and 33 young here in June, Beal Carrs, Thorne Moors, at Fairburn Ings (four pairs), Nosterfield NR (six pairs), at Bishop Thorpe, Bellflask Quarry (two pairs), Smallways, Lower Derwent NNR, Skelton Lake, Swillington Ings and on the River Aire between Methley and Caroline bridges. Attempted breeding may also have taken place at Flamborough, Filey, Wintersett, Coatham Marsh, Old Moor Wetlands, Allerthorpe Lakeland Park, Marfield NR, Ribston Park and Cononley Ings.

During the final half the following were of note: eighteen at Whiteholme and eight at Ringstone Edge on 3rd August, eleven flew past Flamborough on 10th September; ten at Ringstone Edge and six past Flamborough on 5th October on 5th, when six flew past Flamborough the same day; finally, 18 at Thornton Res on 22nd November.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* **C1E***
Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country
Britain's largely sedentary feral population has increased. There is some evidence of seasonal migration in late March to May and October/November, but local introductions, especially at Harewood Park, may mostly account for the county's increasing feral population.

Present all year along the River Wharfe around Strid Wood/Bolton Abbey, with occasional records further up river at Barden Bridge and Burnsall. Only single figures were noted in the first half, but numbers increased substantially in late autumn to peak at 31 birds on 21st November. Sixteen were still present on 21st December and included several displaying drakes.

Also present all year at Harewood Park, with 14 present on 15th January and ten remaining on 11th June; numbers again increased in the autumn with a peak of 39 on 8th October and still 32 on 16th December.

Elsewhere there were four at Hilla Green on 8th January and six drakes and five ducks at Ryburn on 29th

January. A single drake was also present at Farnham GP on 7th February. A number of long-stayers included: a drake on the river Nidd at Knaresborough from the start of the year until May; a drake at Hay-a-Park from 26th February to 20th May; drake periodically at Rother Valley throughout the year. Up to eight were regular on Oak Beck, in the Beckwithshaw and occasionally visited nearby garden ponds. A pair was at Dodd Mill Dams on 11th February and three birds were on the oxbow lake at Hackness on 12th March, with another three nearby at Wrench Green on the same date. A pair was on Eccup Res from 23rd March to 12th April, with a single drake here on 30th April and 29th May. A drake was on the river Tees at Yarm on 29th March; its origins may have been dubious, however, as there were two drakes and a duck on a nearby garden pond on the high street at the same time. With better credentials were two at Forge Valley on 12th March and a drake at Golden Acre Park on 18th March. A drake was on floodwater adjacent to the River Derwent near Malton on 4th April with another at Filey Dams on 20th and 25th April.

Breeding was confirmed at Mowthorpe in July, when a female was observed with eight well-grown young. In Bradford breeding success was thought to be better than 2005, with three well-grown young at Strid Wood and nine young at Barden Bridge in June. Elsewhere breeding was reported from Harewood Park and from Burnsall-in-Wharfedale, where a female with nine ducklings were seen on 29th June; a female with nine ducklings were also seen on the river Sheaf at Abbeydale on 12th and on the same date a brood of nine were at Tyzack's Dam. Two pairs were thought to have nested 12 metres up in trees at Ladies Spring Wood.

A female was at Wombwell Ings from 26th July until 8th August, an eclipse drake was at Hebden Bridge on 20th August, with a drake also at Eccup Res on 15th September. Up to two birds were at Woodhall Lake, Pudsey from 21st October to 13th December, a duck was at Graves Park on 17th September and twenty were at Beauchief Abbey Ponds on 2nd September, with sixteen here on 28th November and one here on 13th December.

On 15th October a drake flying over Spurn Point was a new species for the Observatory; it was later found on the Humber next to the jetty where it remained for half an hour before flying up the river. In November a drake was at Golden Acre Park from 13th to 19th, two females were at Adel Dam on 14th and one was in the Swillington Ings area from 12th to 19th November. In December five drakes and four ducks were at Ryburn from 1st-3rd, with three drakes and a female here on 10th; a pair were on Castle Howard Lake on 2nd, a drake was on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, near Hirst Wood throughout the month; a single was at Hackness Lake on 28th.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana* **A** 2,1,1,0,2
Extremely rare visitor from North America; 17 previous records
A first-winter male was discovered at Watton NR on 1st October, later that same day it was seen on the "O" reservoir at nearby Tophill Low (JB: RL *et al.*). It then remained in the area until the New Year. Another first-winter drake was then discovered in the county in December, when one was identified at Wheldrake Ings on 9th (RSS *et al.*); it lingered in the general area until 15th. Both were relocated in early 2007 when they proved more cooperative.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* **A**
AMBER LIST: rare breeder; common migrant and winter visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 15000: GB threshold 4060
Breeds across northern Europe and Asia, wintering to the south.

Good counts in January included: 405 at Leventhorpe Hall on 2nd; 350 at Wombwell Ings on 5th; and 420 at Scalby Lodge on 29th. In February there was a record count of 545 birds at Wintersett Res on 5th and 105 at Burton Riggs on 14th and in March there were 210 at Swillington Ings. Wintering flocks were not just restricted to inland water bodies, as a flock in Filey Bay peaked at 335 on 14th February. However, nothing could match the impressive 13,151 birds in the Lower Derwent NNR in January, which included at least 2000 birds at Wheldrake Ings. Breeding was reported from five sites, involving no more than twelve pairs; slightly down on last year's fifteen.

Coastal passage re-started in July, with a singles past Filey Brigg on 2nd and Spurn on 16th, though true autumn passage did not begin until August. Movement peaked in September, with 96 past Filey on 15th, 204 on 16th, 74 on 17th. Flamborough logged 67 past on 8th, 76 on 15th, 225 on 16th and 86 on 17th. Spurn recorded higher numbers in October/November with bests of 260 off Spurn on 11th October and 341 on 1st November; 125 flew past Flamborough on 2nd November. In total, Spurn logged 2616 south between August and the end of the year, with 156 north and 129 in off during this time.

Counts in the second half included 150 at Filey through November, 200 at Welton Water on 9th November and in December there were 160 at Leventhorpe Hall, 100 in the Aire Valley on 24th and 480 at Scalby Lodge on 31st. Yet again the highest counts came from the Lower Derwent NNR, with 800 at Wheldrake Ings in October and at least 2000 birds here in December.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blacktoft Sands	340	465	380	140	–	1	1	44	42	210	373	350
Bolton-upon Swale	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	32	c.200	c.200	–
Catcliffe Flash	65		8					1	75	115	95	21
Catwick GP	63	126	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	46	242	92
Cononley Ings	–	30	31	7	1	–	–	1	11	53	46	150
Eccup Res	472		611	203								300
Fairburn Ings	c.240	c.240	c.240	2	1	1	1	1	386	c.200	c.200	c.200
Hay-a-Park GP	238	240	145	27	1	1	2	4	136	105	120	108
Hornsea Mere	420	610	175	315	18	2	4	36	160	195	–	315
Lower Derwent NNR	13151	7026	6617	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lingham/Flask Lake	95	286	105	0	1	1	0	0	6	2	6	39
North Humber	2884	1074	2006	543	6	0	0	7	751	937	1640	1077
Nosterfield NR	1530	793	549	238	5	6	3	9	141	359	459	859
Old Moor Wetland	756	780	700	300	7	2	8	11	315	600	425	472
Pulfin & High Eske	410	200	350	75	2	3	1	0	25	65	–	570
Rother Valley CP	309	346	312	1	1	0	0	1	200	–	175	143
Scaling Dam	51	35	2	3	1	0	0	4	20	42	43	36
Smallways	181	124	91	2	4	12	5	5	39	38	147	137
South Tees	73	85	16	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	27	57
Staveley NR	116	153	150	14	0	2	0	1	0	20	60	40
Swillington Ings	59	260	210	–	2	2	2	2	2	–	–	–
Tophill Low	1247	1379	799	49	1	1	4	3	115	1100	758	386
Wintersett Res	220	545	422	60	0	0	0	5	112	155	298	443

GADWALL *Anas strepera* **AC**

AMBER LIST: uncommon resident breeder; winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/192

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 171

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	9	2	11	9	4	–	2	2	4	12	15	95
Blacktoft Sands	28	–	6	27	9	6	6	25	5	106	16	20
Catcliffe Flash	44	6	20	13	9	19	c.56	c.70	c.70	60	26	16
Fairburn Ings	66	30	72	26	66	122	53	43	420	380	89	120
Farnham GP	38	10	4	–	–	–	–	6	21	6	7	12
Hornsea Mere	128	96	49	112	63	49	128	162	94	90	–	115
Lower Derwent NNR	108	33	88	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lowther Lake	–	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	46	65	78	91
North Humber	75	43	6	25	12	8	5	10	26	135	103	17
North Cave	50	38	14	20	2	–	–	7	–	48	52	47
Old Moor	60	90	150	120	70	80	120	130	165	137	120	79
Rother Valley CP	105	114	69	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	46	36
Saltmarshe Delph	114	116	34	2	–	–	–	–	7	121	103	112
South Tees	20	18	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	40	34	5
Sprotbrough Flash	7	7	4	6	7	8	17	19	52	37	34	29
Swillington Ings	67	c.100	123	53	28	53	107	–	–	144	–	–
Thrybergh CP	12	8	7	12	6	4	28	26	6	33	24	44
Treeton Dyke	24	36	8	20	–	–	–	–	46	1	105	40
Tophill Low	64	51	27	38	31	14	26	12	64	106	62	70
Wintersett Res	31	14	21	24	10	6	8	14	10	17	128	190

Maximum counts at other sites in January included 80 at Stanley Ferry Flash, 32 at Potteric Carr, 30 on Welton Water, 22 at Tinsley SF and 20 at Mickletown Ings. In February there were 16 at Staveley, 12 at Seamer Road Mere and 89 on Brough Airfield.

Breeding was reported from 34 sites involving 240 pairs. This included: at Old Moor Wetlands, where there were 172 young in 21 broods; Fairburn Ings, where eight pairs bred (up from just two in 2005); Hornsea Mere; Leventhorpe Hall; Lowther Lake; Methley Bridge; Mickletown Ings, where nine broods produced 33 young; Rother Valley CP; Skelton Lake, where two broods produced 18 young; Sprotbrough Flash; Swillington Ings, where three broods produced 16 young; Thrybergh CP, where five broods produced 28 young; North Cave Wetlands (four pairs) bred; Wintersett Res.

Highest counts during the final half included 85 at Leventhorpe Hall in July, 23 at Silverwood Lagoons in August, up to 36 at Mickletown Ings from August to October. In the latter month, other maxima were 25 at Pulfin & High Eske and 85 at Potteric Carr. November witnessed counts of 27 at Hay-a-Park, 113 at Howdendyke and 45 at Allerton Bywater. In December there were 60 at Catwick GP, 23 at Ripon race-course, 12 at both Farnham NR and Filey Dams and 22 at Welton Water.

TEAL *Anas crecca* **A**

AMBER LIST: rare breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 2/192

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 1920

Breeds from Iceland east to Siberia, with a small British population. Numbers wintering in the county can fluctuate annually quite dramatically, probably depending on weather conditions on the continent.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	15	14	4	–	–	–	–	–	13	5	3	37
Blacktoft Sands	160	98	65	29	–	48	104	500	130	1600	319	525
Beal Carrs	126	375	240	50	4	2	3	20	61	50	110	104
Cononley Ings	47	30	73	42	–	–	–	10	150	102	59	25
Fairburn Ings	206	139	101	40	23	7	29	110	279	74	188	100+
Filey Dams	120	–	125	38	–	–	–	22	120	151	166	–
Gouthwaite Res	662	252	140	47	1	10	34	98	1578	1500	1000	490
Hornsea Mere	200	347	350	140	60	35	6	140	210	165	40	110
Lower Derwent NNR	4479	1834	3068	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Littlethorpe	18	40	43	2	1	0	0	3	67	17	31	10
North Cave	249	253	158	50	–	–	–	30	–	75	275	240
North Humber	1076	621	634	196	1	0	104	385	671	526	1093	989
Nosterfield NR	198	59	94	71	10	25	63	104	184	190	24	532
Old Moor	137	130	130	130	14	14	70	226	476	320	350	257
Pulfin & High Eske	43	10	20	12	–	–	–	0	10	2	7	15
Pugneys CP	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	71	37	–
Scaling Dam	368	95	93	2	0	3	0	0	79	295	350	333
South Tees	107	293	72	16	0	0	0	6	54	49	86	144
Staveley NR	150	200	65	30	10	3	8	22	20	87	82	100
Swillington Ings	133	48	32	28	12	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	342	367	103	119	1	–	9	112	750	1400	512	340

The only confirmed breeding records came from Midhope Res, with a pair present with two young and from Walshaw Dean, where a female was accompanied by five young on 17th June. A small number of localities reported birds/pairs over the summer, including North Cave Wetlands, Soil Hill, Thorne Moors, Thornton Moor Res, Wintersett Res and Yeadon Tarn. Possible breeding may also have taken place at Pulfin & High Eske, where at least two drakes and a female were present and one drake was 'wing feigning' on 7th May.

Autumn passage along the coast began at the end of July when small flocks were occasionally recorded off coastal watch points; the momentum increased through August when 95 flew north past the Long Nab on 12th and there were 205 north on 26th. Counts off Flamborough included 46 on 13th, 50 on 18th, 101 on 22nd and at Filey 68 flew past on 26th. Passage peaked in mid-September with 169 birds past Flamborough on 8th, with 507 past on 16th and 240 on 17th. While Filey logged 352 on 16th September and 100 north the following day and

the highest counts off Spurn were 429 on 11th and 449 on 12th September. Spurn's total autumn passage tallied 3713 birds heading south and 202 north.

Maximum counts in the final half of the year included: c.270 at Thorne Moors, 121 at Whitby GC, 150 at Bellflask Quarry, 150 at Skipton SF and 194 at Smallways in September. In October 128 was the maximum at Filey Dams and in December there were 200 at Bellflask Quarry, 75 at Sandbeds, and 139 at Scalby Lodge Pond.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* **A** 2,5,3,3,2

Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 55 previous records

Breeds across North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor

Both reports during the year came from the Lower Derwent NNR. A drake was discovered at Wheldrake Ings on 10th March and was present until at least the 19th where it could be seen from Swantail hide (CSR: DT). Rising floodwaters on the reserve then caused it to relocate into nearby ditches and it soon disappeared. The only other record, of what may have been the same returning bird, was at Ellerton Ings on 15th December (CSR: DS).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors* **A** 0,0,0,0,1

Extremely rare visitor from North America; 19 previous records

A drake with a metal ring on its right leg was discovered at Filey Dams on the evening of 11th April (JHo: CCT *et al.*). It arrived with a small influx of Teal and spent most of the time hidden amongst bulrushes at the end of the Main Pool; it departed after dusk on 14th. The same bird was seen later in the month at St Mary's Island, Northumberland and then at Longtown, Cumbria in May. This was the first county record since the drake at Saltmarshe Delph on 1st May 2000.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* **AC**

Fairly common breeder; common migrant and winter visitor

BBS 104/192: 47% (26) increase 1994-2006, 36% (0) increase 2005-06

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 3520

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Albert Park	180	155	185	109	104	93	67	114	206	221	223	206
Beal Carrs	320	350	250	35	30	150	410	325	285	160	165	55
Cononley Ings	30	19	27	20	33	12	55	160	335	295	11	177
Fairburn Ings	373	307	341	75	186	151	245	254	465	110	243	–
Gouthwaite Res	452	100	62	48	49	48	169	391	442	515	468	375
Hornsea Mere	275	190	260	310	180	140	195	270	265	190	–	315
Lingham Lake	337	167	25	14	11	25	109	228	80	136	230	255
Lockwood Beck	107	93	82	4	1	6	0	14	18	25	100	87
Lower Derwent NNR	1393	847	975	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Littlethorpe	80	56	62	38	31	36	84	48	81	87	126	147
North Cave	335	28	29	30	–	–	100	180	–	308	262	250
North Humber	1396	728	234	206	126	328	274	624	900	1043	1019	974
Nosterfield NR	107	47	40	30	51	85	184	182	125	124	129	118
Old Moor	70	130	120	85	70	85	80	200	420	400	188	226
Pugneys CP	103	104	78	37	27	38	67	111	79	108	110	121
Pulfin & High Eske	180	–	–	–	–	–	–	106	112	310	–	100
Scaling Dam	300	67	59	21	2	50	22	233	112	260	171	276
South Tees	85	74	24	6	23	46	41	31	56	30	53	50
Staveley NR	108	100	23	30	8	60	155	162	160	100	50	97
Swillington Ings	169	122	90	48	55	106	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tophill Low	440	210	145	55	70	310	222	380	425	665	200	240
Wintersett Res	45	57	59	29	39	84	110	241	79	57	137	139

Maximum January counts included 106 at Lindley Wood Res, 158 at Thorne Moors, 345 at Harewood Park, 211 at Yeadon Tarn, 200 at Mossy Moor Res, 110 at Shibden Park Halifax, 100 at Rillington, 124 at Burton Riggs, 125 at Bolton Abbey and 139 at Strid Wood, with 215 here in February and 138 at Spurn.

Breeding records included: Eccup Res 22 broods, Fairburn Ings nine pairs bred, Malham Tarn four broods, North Cave Wetlands at least 10 pairs bred, Nosterfield NR 24 broods, Old Moor Wetlands 21 broods 163 y, PHENR two pairs, 35 broods between Lowther and Skelton Lakes, Spurn 2 broods, Wintersett Res 34 broods 165 young. Breeding was also reported from many other locations including Allerthorpe, Bolton Abbey, Baildon, Chelker Res, Cononley Ings, Cottingley Manor, Denton, Gallows Hill, Harecroft, Ilkley Tarn, Knotford Nook, Langsett Res, Lindley Wood Res, Lundhill Pond, Marley SF, Menston, Midhope Res, Otley Wetland, Strid Wood, Stockbridge, Stone Moor, Thornton Moor Res, Timble Ings, Underbank Res, Yeadon Tarn and York.

Late summer post-breeding flocks included 134 at Blacktoft Sands, 200 at Dale Dyke Res, 118 at Mickletown Ings in July. In August there were 394 at Blacktoft Sands, 130 at Potteric Carr NR, 170 at Royd Moor Res, 360 at Edderthorpe Flash, 200 at Mossy Moor Res, c.250 at Wombwell Ings, c.100 at Malham Tarn and 112 at Royd Moor Res and 106 at Ulley CP. In September there were 335 at Cononley Ings, 139 in the Bolton Abbey area, 200 at Lindley Wood Res, 360 at Leventhorpe Hall, 244 at Ulley CP and at Redmires Res, 104 at Ingbirchworth Res and 252 at Yeadon Tarn.

Maximum counts during the final three months included, in October: 930 at Grimwith Res, 200 at Cononley Ings, 353 at Harewood Park, 132 in the Bolton Abbey area, 247 at Strid Wood, 400 at Wheldrake Ings, 130 at Potteric Carr NR, 200 at Skipton SF, 135 at Allerthorpe, 131 at Treeton Dyke and 200 were at Thorne Moors. In November there were 141 at Copgrove, 110 at Ogden Res, 177 at Strid Wood, 203 at Eccup Res, 122 at Spurn, 150 at Dunsop Bridge, 110 at Rother Valley, 200 at Bank Island, 200 at Wheldrake Ings and in December there were 177 at Damflask Res.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* **A**

AMBER LIST: rare breeder, uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 279

A relatively scarce species away from the Lower Derwent NNR, where 80 were present throughout January. Regular at North Cave Wetlands, with a maximum of six in late January, up to 12 on Wombwell Ings and a further three on nearby Old Moor Wetlands. Small numbers were frequently noted at Fairburn Ings, where the maximum was 18 on 11th February. Elsewhere, up to 13 were in the Swillington Ings area in January, with ten still present in March, declining to just a pair in May. Eight were at Hellifield Flash on 2nd January and five circled Pugneys CP on 4th March and five pairs were on Farnhill Ings on 18th March.

Coastal passage began at the end of August, though it was not until September that the autumn migration began in earnest; 16 past Flamborough on 9th, 18 tracked past Spurn on 12th September. In total the autumn passage at Spurn tallied 146 south, 12 north and 37 in off the sea.

Inland, 11 flew over Redmires Res on 31st August and ten flew north over Pulfin & High Eske on 17th September. Maximum counts during the final half included nine at Swillington Ings, with 21 over there on 5th October, 40 at Blacktoft on 11th October, a maximum of 12 at Fairburn Ings and 13 at Leventhorpe Hall Pond in December. However, the biggest numbers were again in the Lower Derwent NNR with c.100 at Wheldrake Ings in December.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* **A**

AMBER LIST: rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant March – Oct. BBS 0/192

Unusually the first was a drake associating with Teal at Potteric Carr from 22nd – 28th January.

A more typical first date was the drake at North Duffield Carrs on 22nd March, soon followed by a pair at Pugneys CP on 30th. In April pairs were at Coatham Marsh and North Duffield Carrs on 7th; a drake at Blacktoft Sands on 11th, with three drakes present from 14th; a pair was at Nosterfield NR from 13th-18th; a drake arrived at Fairburn Ings on 14th; pairs were also at Pulfin & High Eske on 15th and at Lowther Lake from 16th-19th, with another pair at Filey Dams from 18th. Pairs were also seen at Staveley on 20th and on the Leven Canal on 27th and a drake took up residence at Wheldrake Ings from 29th.

In May a drake was noted on the river Wharfe south of Tadcaster on 5th and two drakes were at Hornsea Mere the same day. On 6th four (three drakes, one duck) flew north past Flamborough and a drake was on Old Moor Wetlands. Two drakes and a duck were on the canal at Spurn on 7th, while pair was seen on Coatham Marsh on the same date. Drakes were also seen at Wintersett Res and Otley Wetland on 8th, one remained at Swillington Ings from 3rd-13th, at Clubley's Scrape, Spurn on 10th; two drakes were at Old Moor Wetlands from 11th and at Rother Valley CP from 12th-14th. Single drakes were at Filey GC and Pulfin & High Eske on 13th, at North Cave Wetlands on 16th, when one at Wintersett Res was joined by a second drake; both were still present the following day. The drake first seen at Filey GC relocated to Filey Dams next day, where it joined the pair in residence; unfortunately there were no further sightings after 18th May. There were two drakes at

North Cave Wetlands on 18th and a pair headed south past Spurn on 19th, when a drake was at Fairburn Ings. Lone drakes were then seen at Pulfin & High Eske on 20th–21st, when a drake was also at North Cave. Drakes were also at Wintersett Res on 23rd and at Rodley NR on 24th. Pairs at the end of May appeared at Wintersett Res on 25th, Pontefract Park Lake from 26th–31st, Royston Flash on 28th and at Rodley NR on 31st. Two hung around in May at Blacktoft until 24th May, at Hornsea Mere until 25th and four were seen at North Duffield Carrs during the month.

In June sightings included one at Rodley NR on 2nd, a duck at North Cave Wetlands on 10th, two drakes at Farnham GP on 11th and up to three drakes at North Duffield Carrs. Elsewhere, up to two drakes and a female were regular at Old Moor Wetlands to 15th, two drakes were at Wheldrake Ings 9th–10th and a female was regularly seen at Swillington Ings and through until 23rd July. Also in July a female was at Wykeham Lakes and a single at Edderthorpe Flash on 1st, followed by a lone juvenile at Beal Carrs from 23rd July–7th August. Juveniles were also present on the Canal Scrape, Spurn from 24th July–10th August and one was at Scaling Dam from 26th–29th August.

Other August records included singles at Tophill Low and Swillington Ings on 1st, Kilnsea on 6th, Castle Howard on 16th, at South Gare on 21st and at Rother Valley CP on 26th; up to two were regular at Blacktoft Sands until the 19th and Beal Carrs until 24th August. Tophill's last was an eclipse drake on 26th August. In September a juvenile was at Nicholson's Lagoons on 1st, a female was at North Cave Wetlands on 6th, one was at Allerton Bywater on 17th, when a female was also at Broomhill Flash, before moving to Wombwell Ings on 23rd and a bird was at Swillington Ings on 29th. In October a single appeared at Rother Valley CP on 23rd and a female was at Wath Ings from 29th–31st. In addition, one flew south at Flamborough on the last date.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* **A**
AMBER LIST: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 0/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 148
The wintering population appears to be stable.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	–	7	26	–	–	–	–	–	3	31	17	–
Blacktoft Sands	41	13	17	12	4	15	8	28	10	68	9	45
Catcliffe Flash	12	17	28	12	1	2	1	6	21	21	34	11
Fairburn Ings	54	288	124	13	19	30	17	116	226	110	156	–
Hornsea Mere	74	115	70	94	12	38	84	93	62	115	3	90
Lower Derwent NNR	107	51	75	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Humber	5	21	13	14	11	1	8	18	12	52	14	15
North Cave	6	12	10	25	–	–	–	–	–	7	13	14
Old Moor	37	78	36	35	30	20	25	36	67	100	61	78
Potteric Carr	30	80	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	40	–	20
Pugneys CP	21	61	54	64	2	–	–	–	2	15	31	72
Rother Valley CP	18	2	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	40	17	12
South Tees	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	14	0	16
Staveley	4	5	18	8	2	3	0	1	3	14	13	14
Swillington Ings	12	19	23	5	7	14	–	112	–	91	55	–
Thrybergh CP	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	15	15
Tophill Low NR	45	14	19	35	7	10	26	19	50	57	37	57
Wintersett Res	118	124	64	7	5	2	5	6	12	35	29	53

Two sites in the county are of national importance; the Lower Derwent NNR and Fairburn Ings, where the highest count was 288 birds in March. Other high counts included 37 at Mickletown Ings on 15th January, increasing to 43 on 18th February. At Pulfin & High Eske there were 21 in February, decreasing to 12 in March and six in April. In the Aire Valley there were up to 20 throughout January and February. In February there were 42 in the Dearne Valley on 11th, 22 at Sprotbrough Flash on 6th March and the count of 20 on Thorne Moors on 5th February was the highest count here of the year. Eighteen were at Staveley on 18th March and 17 at Flasks Lake in June.

During the summer successful breeding was reported from: Nosterfield NR (four pairs fledged sixteen young);

North Cave Wetlands a pair fledged five young; there were two broods of six and seven at Mickletown Ings, Swillington Ings (four broods) and a pair bred at Fairburn Ings. Small numbers of pairs were also reported from other localities during the summer.

Numbers peaked at 62 at Nosterfield NR in August, with just 30 birds present here by 21st September; 31 appeared at Eccup Res from August through to the year end and 61 were at Mickletown Ings on 17th September with 22 at Smallways two days later. Other notable counts included 22 on Lingham Water on 12th and 33 at Harewood Park on 19th November and 25 at Pulfin & High Eske in December. Again the highest counts came from the Lower Derwent NNR, with 100 at Wheldrake Ings on 7th December.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **AC2E*** 15,11,20,16,8
Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status
This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections and these probably account for most, if not all the reports.

The year began with a drake at Tophill Low from 8th–9th January; a female arrived with Wigeon at Beal Carrs on 9th March and was still present the following day. A male stayed at Pugneys CP from 8th–13th August and two were at Firsby Res from 26th to 28th August. Two first-winters stayed for a few days at Otley Wetland around 5th September and finally, a drake was at Pugneys CP from 1st October to 11th November.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* **A**
AMBER LIST: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 3500: GB threshold 595
Breeds across northern Eurasia, including eastern Britain

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	1	11	35	–	–	–	–	6	48	112	40	72
Catwick GP	33	109	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	7	18
Fairburn Ings	136	97	67	29	25	14	207	108	78	95	41	–
Hay-a-Park GP	82	109	130	2	0	0	3	2	6	26	53	45
Hornsea Mere	370	450	1050	195	115	90	105	255	185	340	–	690
Lower Derwent NNR	20	1	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Cave	13	12	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	32	23	39
North Humber	109	135	27	24	18	7	0	8	3	17	26	13

Nationally the number of birds wintering in the UK has been declining for a number of years and the Yorkshire wintering population mirrors this. Hornsea Mere remains the counties top site, with a maximum of 1050 in March. Other sites that attract large numbers (in order of importance) include Fairburn Ings, Pugneys CP, Wintersett Res, Swillington Ings, Hay-a-Park and Tophill Low.

In the Aire Valley there were 50 in January, increasing to 100 in February and 200 in March. Elsewhere the highest monthly maxima were 52 at Nosterfield NR, 40 at Blacktoft Sands and 50 at Welton Water in January. While there were 40 at Castle Howard on 5th February and 60 at Potteric Carr NR the same day. At Thrybergh CP there were 82 in January, then 88 in February, increasing to 124 in March. In contrast, the highest monthly counts at Rother Valley were 73 in January, 70 in February followed by a rapid decline to just one on 12th March. There were also 121 at Blackburn Pond and 16 at Yeadon Tarn in February and 35 at Mickletown Ings in March. Four pairs bred at one site. During the final half of the year, there were 66 at Thrybergh CP in October (43 remaining in December), 43 at Nicholson's Lagoons in both November/December, 40 at Wheldrake Ings in December, and finally, 108 at Rother Valley in December.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* **A** 5,4,3,4,2

Rare visitor, with pattern of returning wintering individuals

This North American duck is an annual visitor to the county, with frequent long-stayers.

The year began with three females remaining from 2005; in the north, the two at Coatham Marsh were still present until 8th April, with one staying on until 8th May. The female lingered at Swillington Ings until 29th March, before moving to nearby Lowther Lake, where it stayed until 22nd April.

Elsewhere, a female paired with a Tufted Duck at Wintersett Res on 4th May was presumed to be the Swillington individual (PS *et al.*) and a much-admired drake was at North Duffield Carrs from 29th-31st May, where it could be seen from the Garganey Hide (BB *et al.*). Presumably the same bird was later seen in eclipse plumage at North Duffield on 3rd July.

In November a drake was at Stewart Park, Middlesbrough from 6th-19th (MAB *et al.*) before it relocated to Hemlington Lake on 14th December (JR *et al.*).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* **A**

Uncommon breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 8/192

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 12000: GB threshold 901

The breeding population appears to be increasing in line with national trends.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	5	17	16	26	17	5	2	79	65	151	44	310
Brandesburton	21	69	154	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	66	78
Catwick GP	155	233	–	–	–	–	–	–	38	48	72	134
Copgrove	14	11	17	20			5	2	8	7	4	–
Fairburn Ings	211	156	141	67	170	117	285	255	315	205	105	–
Farnham GP	160	100	56	52	39	35	52	–	80	148	206	202
Flasks	14	31	26	15	20	9	39	60	42	38	23	40
Gouthwaite Res	17	14	16	29	11	23	54	38	22	12	14	20
Hay-a-Park GP	28	40	26	–	40	–	80	–	91	80	54	67
Hornsea Mere	610	480	640	115	160	95	195	380	510	310	–	385
Knotford Nook	62	18	20	11	–	–	–	–	26	21	25	35
Lingham Water	60	74	21	33	31	29	53	54	42	35	14	33
Littlethorpe	32	43	62	25	15	12	14	10	13	30	38	38

Breeding was reported from 48 sites, with a minimum of 150 broods. Breeding reports were received from: Adel Dam; Bellflask Quarry five broods; Burton Agnes Village Pond three broods; Catcliffe Flash; Cold Edge Dams; Fairburn Ings; Farnham GP three broods; Filey Dams two broods; Firsby Res two broods; Flasks Lake four broods; Foulsyke Pond; Harwood Dale Lake; Hornsea Mere; Kirkby Malzeard; John o' Gaunt's Res; Malham Tarn five broods; Margrave Ponds six broods; Moorhouse Lane Ponds five broods; near Myrtle Park; North Cave Wetlands several pairs; Nosterfield NR nine broods; Old Moor Wetlands 23 broods; Old GP Allerthorpe; Otley Wetland two broods; Peasholm Park three broods; Redcar Tarn two broods; Redmires Res; Rodley NR five broods; Rough Pits two broods; Rother Valley two broods; Seamer Road Mere five broods; Scaling Dam six broods; Scalby; Skelton Lake six broods; Smallways two broods; Staveley NR several broods; Swillington Ings 18 broods; Thorne Moors; Throxenby Mere; Tophill Low three broods; Treeton Dyke; Welton Waters two broods; Wintersett Res two broods; Wheldrake Ings; Wykeham Lakes three broods. Breeding also took place on the river Aire and the Aire and Calder Navigation Canal between Knostrop SF and Lowther Lake.

Higher January counts included up to 600 at Swillington, 188 at Thrybergh CP, 105 at Mickletown Ings and 69 at Burton Riggs. There were 60 at Rother Valley CP on 3rd February, 119 at Mickletown Ings through February, and 83 at Seamer Road, Scarborough in March.

During the final half, 103 sheltered on Eccup Res in August, Lowther Lake held 356 in November and in December there were 100 at Bank Island, 138 at Pugneys CP, 204 at Thrybergh CP and 150 at Wheldrake Ings.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* **A**

AMBER LIST and UK BAP species: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

The birds wintering in Britain of this circumpolar species mostly come from Iceland and Scandinavia east to Siberia, usually favouring marine habitats, but also occasional inland.

The year started with long-stayers from 2005; a female remained at Swillington Ings until the end of March; it then moved to Lowther Lake with a Ring-necked Duck, where it remained until 20th April. Another legacy of 2005, a female stayed at Otley Wetland to 5th January; the same individual may also account for the female at Knotford Nook on 4th. Other long-stayers included two immature females at Castle Howard to 25th January, with one remaining until the beginning of April. Elsewhere, a drake was present at Tophill Low from the start of the year to the end of March and was briefly joined by a second male on 8th January; one was at Catwick GP on New Year's Day, and there were three drakes off Redcar on 8th and two drakes there on 12th February. Hornsea Mere proved the best, with a continued presence through to 22nd April and a peak of seven on 15th January. Thereafter a drake was present on 26th April and in May there were three on 3rd and two on 10th. February records also included a drake at Low Skirlington GC on 6th-17th and a drake on North Cave Wetlands from 6th-8th, a new species for the reserve. A female was at Studley Royal on 8th February and two were off Fraisthorpe Beach on 28th. Singles were at Treeton Dyke on 18th-19th March, Wintersett Res on 2nd April, Wykeham Lakes from 23rd-30th April, Lingham Water on 25th and on the Humber at Spurn on 28th April. The final spring record related to a female at Leventhorpe Hall on 6th May.

The return passage began with an immature drake at Nosterfield NR on 26th July, then an eclipse drake at Rother Valley on 14th-17th and coastal passage started with one past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 14th and a drake over Spurn on 19th. In September one flew north past Filey on 1st, singles were on Lindley Wood Res and Knotford Nook the following day, a drake was at Thrybergh CP on 7th and a single flew south past Spurn on 30th. Records increased in October: a single flew south past Spurn on 5th; females at Scaling Dam and off Redcar on 8th; two south at Spurn on 11th with ten more south there the next day; one at North Landing, Flamborough on 15th; singles south at Spurn on 25th and 26th; one past Flamborough on 28th. Inland an immature male initially at Eccup Res from 16th- 19th October, then moved to Swillington Ings on 22nd. Numbers subsequently built up at the latter location, with four present on 30th October and six by 19th November. November seawatchers were rewarded with singles past Scarborough and Flamborough on 2nd (with two the same day at Scaling Dam and another on Eccup Res) and past Spurn on eight dates during the month, with a best of eight on 3rd. Other November sightings included: one near West Ness from 3rd-5th and a single initially on Carr Naze Pond, Filey on 4th that moved to Filey Dams the next day and was last noted on 13th. Other singles were noted on Wintersett Res on 4th, off Reighton Gap on 9th, another at Wintersett 10th-11th, when a drake was at Scalby Mills. December records included: a drake at Potteric Carr on 3rd; 1st-winter at Thrybergh CP from 8th-29th; a female and 1st-winter drake on flood water at Acaster Mablis 12th-13th, with the drake remaining until 17th; a 1st-winter female at Cononley Ings 16th-17th; a drake at Wheldrake Ings on 16th and again 30th; a single at Skipton SF on 17th, a drake at Staveley NR on 18th-19th; twelve south past Spurn on 20th; and one on Scalby Lodge on Boxing Day.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis* **A** 0,3,0,2,2

Vagrant: 7 previous records

A Nearctic duck that winters to northern South America; first recorded in the UK in the 1980s, but now heading towards rare migrant status.

The year began with the drake first seen on Hornsea Mere in late 2005 re-appearing between 7th and 16th January. This was followed by another drake at Farnham GP, where it was present for most of the day on 30th April and was relocated on the evening of 4th May (LL: JRM *et al.*). Maintaining the good run, another drake was identified amongst the loafing *Aythya* flock on Hornsea Mere on 10th July (BR). These constitute the eighth and ninth county records, with the first at Angler's CP coming as recently as April 1996.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* **A**
AMBER LIST: uncommon coastal migrant and visitor; rare inland
This marine species breeds at Coquet Island, Northumberland northwards, but some non-breeding birds summer on the coast, and others winter.

The year started quietly, with nine in Filey Bay through January and an isolated 18 off Spurn on 23rd. In February the best was 11 off Flamborough on 4th. On 1st March Filey recorded 12, but numbers then tailed off as spring advanced. Mid-summer records included six north past Filey on 12th June. Sightings increased from mid-August, with ten north at Filey on 12th, 14 in Filey Bay the following day, when there were also 47 off Spurn and 81 past Flamborough. On 14th August 20 flew north past Marine Drive, Scarborough and 20 were also logged at Flamborough, while 23 flew south past the latter site on 2nd September. From the middle of September small numbers were daily off Whitby GC, with a peak of 18 there on 26th September, 22 flew south past Scalby Mills on 25th and 25 were present in Robin Hoods Bay on the same day. Filey's highest count was 14 south on 30th. In October there were 64 off Redcar on 6th and 100 off Marske on 16th. Later in the month, there were 53 off Flamborough and Filey recorded 44, both 21st October. A wintering flock of 20 established off Flamborough during November and remained in situ until the year end. December highlights included 20 off Saltburn on 3rd and 69 off Spurn on 10th.

There were three inland records; a female-type at Blackmoorfoot Res on 12th September, followed by a male there on 3rd November. Finally, a female dropped onto North Cave Wetlands for only 40 minutes on 27th December; a first record for the reserve.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* **A**
AMBER LIST: scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland.
The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and north Norway; and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers. National counts were relatively high this year.

A female remained at South Gare from 2005 and was last noted on 17th January, but new, was a drake north past Filey on 9th. In February one was off Flamborough on 5th and a 1st-winter male was on Hornsea Mere from 12th, where it was joined by a 1st-winter female from 19th; both stayed until 1st May. In March a drake was off Redcar on 12th and a drake sheltered in Filey Bay on 7th/8th. In May one flew north past Filey Brigg on 14th and a single was off Flamborough on 28th. The last record for the first half consisted of a single on the sea off Spurn on 7th June.

There were no further records until 29th August, when two immatures arrived on Scaling Dam and stayed into 2007. September's sole record was a single past Filey on 8th. In October there were up to three birds off Redcar Stray from 16th-23rd. A lone bird flew past Flamborough on 17th and two flew past here on 22nd; an immature took up residence in Filey Bay from 23rd October through until the year end and a further three flew south past Filey on 26th. At Spurn one pitched down on the Humber on 23rd, before later seen heading north, and another flew south there on 28th.

Strong northerly winds in the start of November displaced several along the coast; two flew past Flamborough and Filey on 1st, with nine off Marine Drive, Scarborough the same day. The next day saw a drake south past Flamborough and Filey, while there were six off Spurn. On 3rd one was at Flamborough and three flew past Marine Drive, while Beacon Ponds offered sanctuary to a single on 4th. Two birds then flew past Spurn on 7th, followed by singles off Spurn and Long Nab on 12th and at Bran Sands on 19th. A single was close inshore by the South Pier, Bridlington on 13th November and there were five birds off Redcar and one past Flamborough on 25th; a single appeared on Beacon Ponds the following day. The only new arrival in December was one over South Bay, Scarborough on 12th.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* **A**
RED LIST and UK BAP species: fairly common coastal visitor, rare inland
The long-term population trend has been of slow decline.

The highest count in first half came on New Year's Day with a raft of 474 off Flamborough. Numbers then started to decline there, with 150 birds remaining on 14th January and 53 through February/March. However, spring passage bolstered the flock and 119 were present during April, while 75 was the maximum in May. Nowhere else recorded substantial numbers, with a best of 78 north past Long Nab on 22nd April.

In June numbers slowly began to increase with 30 north past Filey on 12th, while the resident raft off Flamborough had increased to 102 birds by 25th. By July there was a marked upsurge in numbers, when seawatching produced 195 past Long Nab on 2nd and 145 south past Filey on 10th and 160 past there on 14th.

There were 452 off Spurn on 15th July, while the raft at Flamborough had increased to 500 by 21st and 350 were off Spurn on 29th. Numbers remained high during August, with 163 off Filey Brigg on 3rd and an additional 332 north there on 5th. Although numbers were lower during September, Filey still achieved a count of 302 on 16th.

However, the biggest numbers were logged during the spell of strong northerlies at the start of November; the opening day witnessed 200 past Marine Drive, 345 past Flamborough and 687 past Spurn. The following day brought counts of 326 past Marine Drive, 780 past Flamborough and 1624 past Spurn, with an additional 385 past Marine Drive on 3rd November. Large numbers continued to be recorded off Flamborough with 1037 on 4th, while a loafing flock tallied 600 between Saltburn and Marske on 20th. December's highest count was 486 off Flamborough on 3rd.

Inland sightings were restricted to March-October, with two drakes at North Cave Wetlands on 14th and a female at Pulfin & High Eske on 29th March the first; the latter was only the 3rd site record. Elsewhere there were two drakes at North Duffield Carrs from 31st March to 4th April. Also in April, there was a female at Castle Howard on 1st, drakes at Ulley CP on 16th and Lingham Water on 21st and females at Hornsea Mere on 26th and at Anglers CP on 30th. May started with singles at Potteric Carr and Skelton Lake on 1st, while in June one was on Scaling Dam on 13th and later in the month, two females were at Thrybergh CP on 26th and at Otley Wetlands 28th-29th. A pair was at Thornton Moor Res on 3rd July, eight were at Southfield Res on 19th, a drake was at Fly Flats on 24th July, with another at Whiteholme the same day. In August there were: two at Green Withens on 5th; with singles at Blackstone Edge and Swillington Ings the following day; at Eccup Res on 7th and on 26th, there were three drakes at Royd Moor Res, two drakes and a female at Thrybergh CP and a drake at Rother Valley. In September there were six at Thornton Moor on 5th, four drakes at Langsett Res on 13th, a drake at Wintersett Res and two at Rother Valley on 16th, females at Ingbirchworth Res and Ulley CP on 17th, a single on Anglers CP on 19th-20th. One of the aforementioned remained at Rother Valley to 19th, when it was then joined by an additional two individuals on 19th. Two at Scaling Dam on 24th were the last in September, while singles at Thurscross Res on 8th and at Thornton Moor on 9th October constituted the final inland sightings of the year.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* **A**
AMBER LIST: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland
This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a scarce winter visitor to the east coast. In common with other coastal passage birds, there may be some duplication in records.

Filey and Flamborough monopolized the early records. The former recorded a pair south across the Bay on 22nd January; five days later perhaps the same headed back north. There were no further records until 11th March, when a drake was in the Bay and one flew south past Filey on 21st May. Flamborough logged a total of five birds over three dates.

Records increased from late summer with a drake south past Spurn on 26th, followed by two south past Filey on 29th July. In August two flew north past the Long Nab on 3rd and, on the same date, a lone bird was present off Redcar. Singles were then recorded off Flamborough on 13th, north off Filey on 14th and south off Long Nab on 19th. In September one flew north off Filey on 7th, with four present on 11th, two were off Flamborough on 16th, a male flew south past Spurn on 24th, three were off Flamborough on 27th and a single flew north off Filey on 30th. In October singles headed south off Spurn on 3rd and 15th and at Long Nab on 19th. There were three south off Spurn on 25th, with a single there the following day and three birds were off Flamborough on 28th. Seawatching from Filey produced four north on 3rd, with four north on 14th, a single north on 19th and three north on 28th. In line with several other species, the first week of November proved to be a good one: the opening day saw five off Flamborough, one south off Filey, six off Spurn and one north at Marine Drive; six followed off Flamborough on 2nd, with four north off Filey and eight north off Marine Drive the same day. On 3rd there were two off Flamborough and another off Marine Drive. The mini-movement then stalled until there were two north off Filey on 12th, with another there on 24th. Spurn recorded a maximum of three on six dates during November, while at the opposite end of the county numbers started to build offshore of Marske with four present on 20th; seven were present by 11th December. Other records in the last month included singles off Flamborough on 3rd, Spurn on 10th, North Bay, Scarborough from 10th-12th and, possibly the same, in Jackson's Bay on 18th. However, easily the most impressive record was a female at Blackmoorfoot Res on 23rd October (CHo).

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* **A**
AMBER LIST: fairly common migrant and winter visitor, a few over-summer. BBS 0/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 249
Hornsea Mere is the only nationally important wintering site within the county of a species that breeds from Scotland east to Siberia.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	48	76	120	45	3	1	1	1	1	1	23	20
Farnham GP	12	22	17	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	21
Grimwith Res	32	32	32	22	0	0	0	0	–	–	27	48
Hay-a-Park GP	33	30	26	31	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	3
Hornsea Mere	95	195	486	280	26	1	2	–	–	14	43	91
Knotford Nook	25	16	23	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	13
Old Moor	8	13	14	4	0	1	0	0	0	3	6	7
Otley Wetland	31	46	27	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	21	26

In January up to 40 were at Castle Howard and 59 at Redcar Ore Terminal, while Catwick GP recorded 35 in February and counts peaked at 36 at the Nosterfield/Lingham Water complex in March. At Hornsea Mere numbers were down compared to 2005, but it still remained the best site in the county, with a highest count of 486 in March. Odd birds were recorded during the summer with 1–2 regularly seen at Fairburn Ings, while an injured bird had a lonely time at Staveley NR. Maximum counts were significantly lower over the last quarter compared with Jan–March, with 20 at Wheldrake Ings and 18 at Catwick GP in December.

Autumn seawatchers started to record low numbers from 7th October, with larger numbers displaced by the strong northerlies during the first week of November; the opening produced a large movement with 48 off Marine Drive, Scarborough, 45 sheltering in Filey Bay and 32 off Spurn. On 2nd there were 78 off Marine Drive, 30 off Flamborough and 21 off Spurn, while the next day saw 11 off Marine Drive and 24 at Flamborough.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* **A**
Scarce winter visitor

Again Tophill Low proved the favoured site, with three drakes and two redheads on 2nd January and then ever present until 26th March; nine, including four drakes, were present on 5th February. Gouthwaite Res a drake was present from 5th January to 26th April, mainly favouring the northern end of the reservoir. Two drakes and a redhead that flew down the Humber past Spurn on 8th January were the first here since 2002, while the following day saw two redheads at Hay-a-Park. A redhead remained in the Swillington Ings area from 12th January to 30th April; mainly seen on Astley Lake, it occasionally visited the river Aire. Fairburn attracted a drake from 29th January and, thereafter, one or two birds were present throughout the first winter period, with a maximum of three on 2nd March. The final record was a redhead on the 'main bay' on 26th April. A pair visited Rother Valley on 28th January, with a redhead at North Cave Wetlands next day; two redheads also arrived at Blacktoft on 29th and stayed until 24th March, often showing well from Xerox hide. In February there were two redheads at Hornsea Mere on 5th February, six drakes and four redheads on the river Wharfe at Addingham on 12th February and a drake was at Hornsea Mere on 19th February. Single redheads were also on Brough Airfield Marsh on 10th April and Welton Water on 12th April.

The first returning bird was a redhead briefly at Nosterfield NR on 26th October. Single redheads were then on Scampston Park Lake on 19th November and Anglers CP and Southern Washlands NR (Wakefield) on 17th December. Other December sightings included a drake offshore at Barmston on 17th and three drakes present at Southfield Res between 26th and 28th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	9	13	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	2

Filey Bay attracted up to three over the first quarter, with no more than three passing Flamborough and Spurn over the same period. In May one flew past Long Nab, Scarborough on 1st and a female was present at Filey Brigg from 2nd–7th, with five females north there on 20th and a lone bird off Spurn on 24th June.

Inland a drake was at Blackmoorfoot Res from 28th January until 14th February and other February sightings included a drake on the river Don at Tinsley SF on 11th, a female at Swillington Ings on 18th and a drake flying upriver past Winckley Hall on 25th. A female was present at Welton Waters from 16th–28th March, while another visited Blacktoft Sands on 24th and a drake flew over Redmires Res two days later. A female was at Eccup Res on 9th April and two were on Lingham Water on 17th, while in May one was at Blacktoft Sands on 26th and two were at Dunsop Bridge on 27th; the final record of 'spring' were two drakes at Wintersett Res on 23rd June.

Coastal movements recommenced with a female passed Atwick on 9th, followed by one off Spurn on 24th July. In August two were off Filey on 3rd and one at Flamborough on 13th. On 2nd September one flew south past Long Nab and, what may have been the same bird, was then seen later that day off Filey Brigg, while Flamborough produced a single on 16th and two on 28th September. Records increased from October with a best of five south off Marine Drive on 24th. Mirroring several species numbers peaked in early November; on 2nd there were eight past Marine Drive, one unusually on Filey Dams, 11 past Flamborough, one at Barmston and five off Spurn. The following day witnessed 12 off Flamborough, seven passing Filey Brigg, and four off Spurn. Sightings decreased through the rest of the month, while in December one lingered around Scalby Mills for most of the month and two were in Filey Bay from 22nd to the year-end.

Inland one was at Thornton Moor Res on 21st August, with another at Glovershaw the following day. The only October records were singles at Lingham Water on 7th and at Pugneys on 25th. In November: a redhead was briefly at Old Moor Wetlands on 2nd, before it left with a party of Goosander; six were at Swillington Ings on 10th, followed by an eclipse male there on 17th; a drake appeared at Castle Howard on 25th and a female was at Scaling Dam on 28th. Three single drakes were discovered in December, with the first at Welton Waters on 10th, one on floodwaters at Bubwith the following day and one remaining at Bellflask Quarry from 17th–25th.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* **A**
Uncommon to scarce breeder; uncommon migrant and winter visitor. BBS 7/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2700: GB threshold 161

Breeds on fast-flowing rivers mostly in the west of the county, with numbers swollen in winter. Males fly to Tana Fjord, North Norway to moult during September, and this may account for some coastal sightings.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blackmoorfoot Res	26	18	12	4	4	0	0	0	2	3	3	23
Elland GP	30	30	4	5	1	–	–	–	1	1	32	60
Old Moor	38	52	74	31	2	0	0	4	0	2	23	36

In January there were 111 at Eccup Res on 11th, 36 at Lindley Wood Res on 14th, up to 40 at Nicholson's Lagoon and maxima of 30 on the river Ure at Boroughbridge and 28 at Fairburn Ings. In February there were 40 at Swillington Ings and 20 at Catcliffe Flash. March saw the break-up of larger flocks as birds began to pair up, although there were still 39 at Eccup on 5th.

Along the river Aire breeding was reported from Apperley Bridge, Dowley Gap, Marley, Newlay, Rodley NR and Skipton SF. At least five pairs were present along the river between Kildwick and Carleton, with breeding confirmed at both Cononley and at Kildwick. Pairs were also noted along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and at Carr Head Cowling. It was considered to have been a poor year along the river Wharfe, although family parties were noted at Strid Wood, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Lower Grass Wood and at Denton. A pair raised eight young from a nest-box at Swinsty. Along the river Nidd family parties were noted at Conyngham Hall, Glass Houses, Knaresborough, Little Ribston and at Shaw Mills. Pairs raised young along the river Ure at Ripon Parks and at High Batts NR, while additional pairs bred along the river Crimple at Spofforth, at Gouthwaite Res and at Studley Park.

Numbers built up from the end of September and maxima over the last quarter included 41 at Denholme Clough, 51 at Yeadon Tarn and 77 at Eccup Res in late November.

Long-term monitoring by some local clubs suggests that the species is declining in some areas; the cause of which is unknown, but there was at least one report of persecution during the year, with shooting on the river Aire in December.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* **C**
Scarce feral breeder since 1980; uncommon visitor from 1968. BBS 1/192
Following control measures, the major fall in numbers seen in the previous winter was not followed by a further decrease, with high counts noted at some Yorkshire waters.

Monthly Maxima & WeBS counts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Catcliffe Flash	–	1	2	2	6	3	7	9	7	1	–	–
Fairburn Ings	20	8	37	–	40	23	20	6	15	–	50	–
Hay-a-Park GP	5	6	6	4	1	4	3	8	13	25	8	10
Hornsea Mere	76	6	39	17	13	5	11	8	20	45	60	110
Old Moor Wetlands	20	47	38	30	71	30	25	47	48	20	10	9
Pugneys CP	31	38	15	–	–	–	–	4	4	5	17	18
Rother Valley	6	1	15	7	10	–	–	4	3	2	34	25
Skelton Lake	18	–	–	21	–	–	–	24	32	46	–	–
South Tees	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	3	1	3	2	0
Swillington Ings	3	–	2	1	10	10	–	–	–	–	16	–
Thrybergh CP	–	–	1	3	3	2	1	–	7	11	6	1
Tophill Low	95	88	43	14	13	4	2	8	38	45	36	83
Wintersett Res	99	33	93	5	6	6	6	11	51	71	70	21

Eradication of this species by Defra continued with a number of sites reporting shooting parties during the year. However as can be seen in the above table some sites continued to attract good numbers, though for how much longer remains to be seen.

Away from the above sites, higher counts included ten at Broomhill Flash on 30th March, seven at Leventhorpe Lake on 20th April, and ten at: Skelton on 22nd April, Mickletown Ings on 14th May, Beal Carrs on 8th June, Thorne Moors on 25th May.

Bred proved at Old Moor Wetlands (four broods fledging 20 young), at Gouthwaite Res, Filey Dams (four broods), Nicholson's Lagoons, Flask Lake, Margrove Ponds, Fairburn Ings (four pairs), Red House Farm Pond, Rodley NR (three broods), Swillington Ings (five broods), Routh Pits and Welton Waters.

Up to three were recorded from many waters, but a female at Ringstone Edge on 12th June (the seventh Calderdale record) and a single at Malham Tarn on 24th–28th June were particularly noteworthy. Broomhill Flash attracted 40 on 30th August and in the Harrogate area, the Nosterfield maximum was 14 on 21st September, with 13 on nearby Lingham Water on 8th October. Elsewhere birds were regular at Flask Lake, with a top count of ten on 30th September.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* **A**
UK BAP species: fairly common resident breeder of upland moors. BBS 40/192
Yorkshire is an English stronghold of this subspecies of the European Willow Ptarmigan. Breeds exclusively on heather moorland, where the population is managed. The breeding population appears to be stable, with the largest concentrations in North Yorkshire; although numbers were slightly up on last year, admittedly more squares were surveyed.

The largest reported gatherings were 44 on Barmingham Moor on 16th September, 30 at Scar House on 5th November, coveys of 25 and ten on Dallowgill Moor on 12th November and 'many in parties of up to 30' on Colsterdale Moor on 19th December.

In South Yorkshire, there has been a steady increase in numbers, with generally the same number of squares surveyed. High counts included 40+ at Snailsden Edge and 30+ at Midhope on 22nd January; 35 on Broomhead Moor on 27th April; and 65+ on Dukes Road on 10th August. Numbers considered stable in West Yorkshire.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: rare to scarce resident breeder. BBS 1/192
This species continues to increase in the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Area and has benefited from habitat improvements. A full survey, conducted at all known lek sites in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, revealed a notable increase to a minimum of 108 lekking males, an increase from 37 males in 2005; however, only 90 per cent of lek sites were visited during 2005. The monitoring technique used was to visit each site twice between March and May and count the highest count of males on any one visit, as some males are not always present at the lek sites.

Outside the breeding season, small numbers were occasionally seen at traditional sites, with a good count of 15 at West Stronesdale on 9th December.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* **C**
Common resident. BBS 55/192: 41% (31) increase 1994–2006, -5% (-11) decrease 2005–06
Numbers appeared generally stable throughout the county, although some sites reported a downward trend, maybe due to less birds released by gamekeepers. Particularly good counts included 41 at North Cave Wetlands in January; 29 at Eccup Res on 25th August; an incredible flock of 153 at New Marske on 2nd November, which easily represents Cleveland's biggest ever count and surely represents a recently released group of birds; and 40 at Ashfield Side Beck near Harrogate on 18th November.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* **AC**
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident. BBS 38/192
There appeared to be no change in population and records received from across the county, with a particular stronghold apparent in North Yorkshire. Areas with concentrations of breeding pairs included 13 pairs in the Wintersett area, six pairs at Broomhill Ings, four pairs at Filey, three pairs at Flamborough, a few pairs at North Cave Wetlands, two pairs at Fairburn Ings and two pairs at Nosterfield NR.

High counts in January included 20 at Broomhill Ings and 26 at Fraisthorpe on 1st; also 27 at Potteric Carr on 3rd, 28 at Filey on 3rd and 15 at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 8th. Other notable counts included 20 at Wintersett on 12th May; 23 at Flamborough on 27th September; 35 at Soil Hill, Halifax on 27th October; 23 at Filey from October to the year-end; 16 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd November, 26 at Atwick on 18th November, up to 20 at Skelton Lake in November and December. Other December maxima included 13 at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd, 30 in Upper Wharfedale on 17th, and 16 at Southfield Res on 22nd.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* **A**
Red list: scarce summer visitor
In comparison to last year, there were very few records received, particularly the Lower Derwent Valley that is one of the county strongholds.

The first was calling at North Duffield Carrs on 20th April, followed by another in the East Riding at Bewholme on 10th May. Near Scarborough, birds were calling beside Station Road, Scalby Mills on 28th May, in a field behind Lancaster Way, Scalby on 8th and 10th June and by the Old Railway on 9th June. One near Thornton-le-Dale on 28th June, another calling at Kettleness on 8th July and a single calling at Glaisdale 4th – 11th June. In Cleveland one was grounded by a thunderstorm in a Nunthorpe garden on the evening of 22th July. Further inland one was calling at Leven Carrs on 12th June and one was heard at Thorne Moors during the summer. One was calling at Swillington Ings on 4th July and the Harrogate area produced one at Bishop Monkton on 2nd July, two at Staveley NR on 20th July and one calling at Skelton–on–Ure on 30th July.

Coastal migrants included singing males at Flamborough on 6th and 12th June and one flushed from the Point Dunes at Spurn on 20th June.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* **C**
Common to abundant resident
BBS 153/192: 89% (48) increase 1994–2006, 31% (7) increase 2005–06
This is one of the most widespread species, with particularly large populations in North Yorkshire, where many are released for shooting. There appears to be a considerable increase in the population, although the only records received of any note were of 15 territories in the Wintersett area, 45 at Wortley Park, Sheffield on 9th March and 39 at Sprotborough Flash on 30th January.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* **A**
Amber list: fairly common coastal migrant and winter visitor; rare inland
This circumpolar species breeds in Europe in northern Scandinavia and north-west Scotland.

Generally a quiet year at the coastal sites; at Scarborough, small numbers from January to May and September to the year end, with a maximum of just 23 past Marine Drive on 2nd November. Filey faired better, even recording occasional birds in June and July; highest counts in the first winter quarter included 178 on 4th

February, 89 on 8th March, and 84 on 24th March. Southerly autumn passage totaled 514, including high counts of 51 on 15th, 122 on 16th and 55 on 25th September. In the winter, the best count was 31 on 24th December. A decent start to the year at Flamborough saw 75 on 1st and 2nd January and 61 on 15th. Other high counts included 70 on 5th March and the year's maximum of 100 on 25th March. A good spate of records during the summer included an impressive 13 on 3rd June. During the last third of the year the highest counts were 87 on 17th September, 69 on 4th October, 50 on 2nd and 25th November, and 44 on 12th December.

Counts between Atwick and Barmston included 55 on 16th February and a very impressive 602 on 23rd March, broken down at individual sites as follows: 88 off Ulrome, 186 off Barmston, 172 off Skipsea and 156 off Atwick. In the second winter period the highest count between Atwick and Barmston was 27 on 28th November. At Spurn it was recorded almost daily in reasonable numbers from January to the end of April, with a maximum count of 219 on 21st March. Then single-figure counts occasionally until September when almost daily sightings were logged again until the year end, giving a high count of 132 on 24th December.

There were five inland records. One flew north over Flasks Lake on 18th January (MB, RTP), four, including an adult in breeding plumage, were on Howden Reservoir (VC63) on 25th March (JMS). An adult in winter plumage was at Middle Walshaw Dean Reservoir, on 2nd November (JW), where it stayed until at least 7th November; the seventh record for Calderdale. An immature was present at Eccup Res from 13th to 17th October (DO: PS) and an adult at the same site on 31st December (JKL) remained into 2007.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

Small numbers breed in Scotland, but most of Yorkshire's records are of birds from Scandinavia and northern Russia.

An average year, with Flamborough having the lion's share and there were no inland sightings. At South Gare an ill-looking bird in the bay on 7th January later hauled itself out of the water on to the beach; another was recorded there on 15th. One was in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 22nd January while Flamborough had eight birds seen on seven dates during the month. The next was also at Flamborough on 18th February, while March saw singles at Scarborough on 11th and 18th and Filey on 19th, but four flew north at Atwick on 28th March. In April one was on the Humber at Spurn on 19th and Flamborough recorded singles on three dates. A sub-adult was off Atwick on 28th May, the same day one was seen off Flamborough.

Unusually one was off Flamborough on 1st July and singles were there on three August dates and four in September. An adult was off Ulrome on 3rd August. One flew south at Filey on 7th September and October saw singles logged on four dates at Flamborough. November is always a good month for this species; Flamborough came out on top again, with 20 recorded on ten dates, including three on 2nd and five on 4th. Elsewhere singles at Filey on 1st and 10th, one flew south past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 3rd, one was at Saltburn on 7th, one was off South Gare on 13th and another at Saltburn on 29th that remained until mid-December at least. The only other December records were of singles at Flamborough on 10th and Spurn on 16th and 17th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* **A**

Amber list: uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species. Two long-staying birds from 2005 lingered into the year: one at South Gare on several dates in January and one at Filey which remained in the Bay until 10th March. One was off Fraisthorpe on 4th January, one flew north at Spurn on 21st January, and two were seen at Flamborough on 26th. The next was at South Gare on 11th February, followed by singles at Flamborough on 11th and 18th and Spurn on 19th. The next three records were from Spurn, with lone birds on 19th March, 30th April and 1st May.

Singles at Flamborough on 28th May and Spurn on 27th July were unseasonal.

Between October and December, regular sightings were made at all the well-watched east coast sites. Cleveland had one off Redcar Stray on 22nd October. Singles were seen off South Gare on 22nd October and off Marske 20th to 25th November, and throughout December there were regular sightings between South Gare and Saltburn, involving at least four birds, including three together off Redcar Stray on 24th.

At Scarborough one flew south at Scalby Mills on 28th October. One flew north off Marine Drive on 1st November, then one feeding offshore there on 4th, followed by an adult in breeding plumage at Cayton Bay the next day. One flew north at Long Nab on 27th November, and one fed in the harbour on 11th December. Filey's autumn began with one south on 20th October and one in the Bay on 28th. One flew north on 13th November, followed by one south the next day. Then birds were ever present in the Bay from 22nd November, with six present from 23rd December. At Flamborough one was seen on 1st October and 11 bird/days during the month included three on 21st. November saw three on 2nd and 4th and a further 11 were logged over six dates. In

December singles were seen on 3rd and 16th. A moulting adult was off Atwick on 3rd November. At Spurn, singles were seen offshore on 12th, 21st and 28th October, 2nd, 15th, and 30th November. Then in December, singles were seen on 8th and 17th, with two on 10th.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **A**

Uncommon resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 3/192

A widespread breeding resident throughout the county. Breeds on small, shallow fresh waters, and easily overlooked unless riverine surveys are carried out.

The only high counts in the first quarter were 17 at Farnham GP and 18 at Lakeside in January; 20 were at North Cave Wetlands and Broomhill Ings and 19 at Beacon Ponds in February. Breeding records well distributed, with the largest concentrations as follows: 18 pairs at Broomhill Ings had 17 broods with 41 young seen; 15 pairs at Fairburn Ings; *c.*25 pairs in the Swillington Ings / Skelton Lake area; six pairs at Pugneys CP, five pairs at Filey Dams and five pairs at Farnham GP. Post-breeding flocks produced the highest counts with 75 at Broomhill Ings on 20th August, 40 at Swillington Ings on 30th September, 28 at Fairburn Ings on 30th July, 22 at Nosterfield GP in August and September. Birds dispersed from October, with the best counts being 22 at North Cave Wetlands and 14 at Welton Water in November.

Unusual sightings included an unfortunate adult eaten alive by a Grey Heron at Fairburn Ings, and one north past Flamborough on 1st November; only the second seawatching record there in over 30 years.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* **A**

Uncommon to scarce resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 2/192

A widespread species in Europe found on larger lowland lakes, reservoirs, meres and gravel pits. Small numbers winter on the coast and there is no evidence of population change.

Again breeding occurred throughout the county with 16 pairs in the Leeds area, 13 pairs at Fairburn Ings, 12 pairs at Wintersett (only fledged 4 young), seven pairs at Pugneys CP, five pairs at Southfield Res, four pairs at Farnham GP, and three pairs at Welton Water and Broomhill Ings.

Gatherings outside of the breeding season were greatest along the coast, particularly between Atwick and Barmston, the highest counts being 189 on 16th February; 93 on 5th and 112 on 22nd March; and 19 on 17th December. Filey Bay held 34 on 9th March with 18 there on 31st December. Inland the largest counts included 62 at Rother Valley CP on 4th March and 45 there on 16th December; 26 at Eccup Res on 5th August; 56 at Swillington Ings on 19th August; 42 at Tophill Low NR on 8th October and 63 at Southfield Res on 28th October. At Wintersett 36 were present on 14th January and 4th March, then 42 on the 15th July, 44 on September 16th and a peak of 61 on 8th October, followed by counts of just 39 on 18th November and 31 on 16th December.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* **A** 48,34,24,57,30

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor

Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, although much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west.

The only January records were of singles seen off Flamborough on 1st and 14th. The next flew north past Filey on 5th February (CCT), and one flew south past Marine Drive, Scarborough, alighting briefly before continuing on 20th February (RHA, PW). One was on Hornsea Mere on 17th January and 2nd and 25th to 26th February (BR: WFC), one was off Ulrome on 10th February (WFC), and a single was at Coatham Marsh from 26th February to 2nd March. Also in March, one flew south at Filey on 4th (JS: CCT); on 12th singles were at Hornsea Mere (LB: MB) and Tophill Low NR (L&MB: WeBS); the only other record in the first half of the year was of a breeding plumaged bird at Chalk Bank, Spurn on 13th May (LJD *et al.*).

A summer-plumaged adult summered on Ten Acre Lake, Hatfield Moor; it stayed from 4th June through to 22nd August.

The first of the autumn involved a bird in breeding-plumage on Park Lake, Wintersett on 8th August (SD: PS *et al.*). A juvenile landed on the sea off Long Nab, Scarborough and left north 17 minutes later in the morning of 13th August (NWA), the same day that three were seen off Flamborough. In September, singles were off Flamborough on 6th and 9th, one flew south past Filey on 10th (PC: JS) and possibly the same bird was in the Bay the next day (FM *et al.*), and one flew north, then south there on 16th (MJG: JS). Two were seen at Flamborough on 9th October, one was seen at Hornsea Mere on 11th to 27th October. One flew south past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 19th October (SML). Flamborough again produced two birds on 2nd and 4th November, while one fed in Filey Bay on the latter date (CMc: MMc *et al.*) and the last of the year was off Filey Brigg 18th November (JS).

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* **A** 29,15,13,7,23

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn

A small population of the larger-billed form breeds in Scotland, but it is the smaller-billed eastern population, breeding from Sweden eastwards, which winters in the county.

It was a better year than of late, with the bulk of records from Filey. The first was in Filey Bay on 27th January (J&TGD *et al.*) and remained until 9th March. One spent the day at Tophill Low NR on 14th February. A winter-plumaged adult was at Pulfin Bog between 3rd March and 8th April (DGH) and then a pair was at Lakeside, Doncaster on 22nd April.

In the second half, a moulting adult accompanied by a juvenile sheltered in Filey Bay on 12th and 13th August (JMT *et al.*). A single was present at Lakeside, Doncaster on 13th and 14th August. One was found on Hornsea Mere on 24th September (EJH) increasing to two the next day and four by 8th October; three were still present on 20th, with two there until 29th (WFC: LI: RL). One was in Filey Bay between 16th October and 2nd November (CJF *et al.*), one was at Pugneys CP from 17th to 19th October, and one flew north past Flamborough on 1st November (BH: PAL). Hornsea Mere hosted one from 16th to 21st November while a single bird was on the sea off Saltburn on 23rd. December saw two off South Gare on 1st, one off the Fog Station, Flamborough on 10th, one inland at Farnham GP from 10th to 12th (JEA: RB: LL), one was on Hornsea Mere on 18th (WFC) and, finally, one remained in Filey Bay from 23rd to the year end (JS: CCT *et al.*).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds sporadically in the county, with a distribution, stretching from Spain eastwards. One pair bred.

The first appeared on floods at Ainderby Steeple on 27th March. One at Hornsea Mere from 29th March to 3rd April was the pre-runner for a good series of records there: two from 7th to 17th April were followed by four on 26th with a pair staying until 12th May. Three were present on 30th May, with just one mid-summer record of one on 23rd June. Two in breeding plumage flew south past the sea-watching hut at Spurn on 11th April, two were at Denaby Ings on 11th and 12th April, and three in breeding plumage were in Filey Bay on 19th April. An adult was at Skelton Lake, Swillington on 30th April and 1st May, one was at Nosterfield LNR from 2nd to 4th May, with one at Nosterfield Quarry on 14th May.

Thorne Moors recorded its first on 2nd April and numbers increased to six by 26th April; subsequently recorded until 23rd June. Four were at North Duffield Carrs on 3rd April with sporadic sightings until 6th May. A pair which arrived at Potteric Carr on 6th April stayed and hatched one chick on 11th June, but it died four days later. Subsequently another chick appeared on 20th July, but this was last seen on 3rd August. The parents departed the following day; presumably one of them then spent 5th to 27th August at nearby Lakeside.

Probably relating to failed breeders was a pair on the Main Bay at Fairburn Ings on 10th June and three summer-plumaged adults at Broomhill Ings from 12th June; present until 29th, one was then seen sporadically until the 17th July. Two were at Tophill Low NR on 14th June, while at North Cave Wetlands two in breeding plumage were present on 14th June. A juvenile was at Rother Valley CP on 27th July. A winter plumaged bird was at North Cave Wetlands on 29th and 30th August. One was at Southfield Res on 31st August and 1st September, while Hornsea Mere attracted birds from 6th to 21st September, 24th September to 3rd October, 9th October, 10th to 12th November and 18th December. Farnham GP hosted a moulting adult from 9th to 17th September. A juvenile was at Tophill Low NR between 10th September and 7th October, and one was at Nosterfield NR from 2nd to 4th December.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* **A**

Amber list: fairly common breeder; common offshore; occasional inland. BBS 1/192

Research into the stomach contents of dead Fulmars from the Netherlands between 1982 and 2001, revealed 96% had plastic fragments in their stomachs, with an average of 23 plastic pieces per bird (Van Franeker and Meijboom, 2003). Despite these shocking statistics, Fulmar continues to breed in good numbers along our coast. In the north of the county c.110 pairs bred near Huntcliff, with a further 130 pairs between Boulby and Cowbar; these represent a slight increase on the numbers in 2005 and reflect a continuing national increase of between 3 - 4% a year. Inland breeding continues at Roseberry Topping where three birds were sitting on nests on 27th April; no doubt these were also responsible for three over Guisborough on 11th February, another over there on 20th April and one over Eston Moor on 16th May.

Large numbers were logged early on past Filey and Flamborough, with the following the best: 996/hour north at Filey on 20th January; 1311 past Flamborough on 28th January; 628/hour north past Filey on 18th February, with 1607 past Flamborough the same day, followed by 1159 there the next day; 1401 north at Flamborough on 4th March. There was little notable autumn movement in the autumn apart from 940 past Flamborough on 14th August and 422 on 9th September, whilst Spurn recorded 1109 on 8th September. As per usual, virtually absent from inshore waters during October, with only small numbers recorded during November. In December 192 went south past Filey on 2nd with 180/hour south past Filey on 28th.

The dark morph, colloquially known as Blue Fulmar, was only recorded at Filey and Flamborough. Filey logged singles on five occasions: north on 14th February; 4th March; 31st May; 31st July and one south on 23rd December. More frequently recorded at Flamborough, with six in January, eleven in February, one in March, four in April, one in July, two in August, one in September and the last on 10th December.

(Van ranker, J.A. & A.Meijborn, 2003 Marine Litter Monitoring by Northern Fulmars – Progress report 2002. Wageningen, Alterra, Green World research. Alterra-rapport 622.)

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* **A** 8,7,2,6,2

Rare late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from the Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa. Post-breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

Just three records, relating to probably two individuals, was a poor return and indicated few penetrated the North Sea this year. The first flew south past Long Nab, Scarborough on 12th August (JM). Probably the same was seen the next day at Flamborough where it went north (BH: IM: BR: RS *et al.*). The final record was again at Flamborough where one went south on 7th September (PAL).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* **A**

Uncommon summer/autumn coastal passage migrant; rare in spring/winter

A migrant from the southern hemisphere, has been declining globally in numbers in recent years.

Spring records are uncommon but not unknown, so one north at Flamborough on 12th March was noteworthy. The first of the 'autumn' was one past Spurn on 13th July which was swiftly followed by one past Flamborough on 15th. Flamborough had five more past during July; the only other July records were of a single past Filey on 20th and one past Spurn on 22nd. Peak passage from the main sites is shown in the table below.

Site & Date	3/8	12/8	13/8	07/9	08/9	09/9
Filey	7	12	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Flamborough	⊖	30	76	⊖	82	33

⊖ small numbers, or no count

These were low numbers for a species which has been recorded in thousands a day in the past. Birds were also seen from Atwick, Kettleness Point and Whitby. The species was recorded at sea from the Bridlington Belle on 16th and 17th September with six and ten respectively. In October the species was recorded from Flamborough on eight dates with a maximum of 16 on 5th whilst Spurn recorded the species on just three dates with a maximum of five on 5th. There were no other October records. In November Flamborough recorded birds on five dates with 11 on 1st the maximum and the last there on 12th November. The last in the county was a very late bird past Spurn on 8th December.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal passage migrant, mainly summer/autumn

Breeds around the temperate North Atlantic, including western Britain and Ireland, with the majority of our birds transequatorial migrants wintering off the coast of South America, mostly Brazil, but some remain in the Bay of Biscay.

Although there were relatively low totals in late summer/autumn, passage in May was bigger than usual. Flamborough again provided the highest counts and recorded the first on an unseasonal 8th January. Small numbers were noted past Flamborough on five dates in April, with peaks of 11 on 29th and 16 on 30th. Other April records were one past Long Nab on 17th, one past Spurn on 18th and two at Filey on 30th. Several coastal locations recorded small numbers through the summer/autumn; peak passage is highlighted below. In addition, 105 flew past Long Nab on 12th August. There were a few sightings in November with one on 2nd and two on 3rd past Flamborough and the year's last flew past Filey on 12th November.

Site & Date

	21/5	29/5	30/5	31/5	June	July	11/8	12/8	13/8	15/8	Sept	Oct
Filey	⊖	⊖	65	76	53	40	29	48	39	⊖	⊖	⊖
Flamborough	95	68	⊖	⊖	100	50	⊖	152	430	119	99	13

⊖ indicates birds present, but insignificant numbers

There were two inland records; a single west past Paull Holme Strays on 26th June and one picked up at Elvington, west of York, on 20th September.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* **A** 29,73,15,45,48

UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in declining numbers in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post-breeding dispersal takes place. Currently a regular visitor to British waters, with around 1,000 individuals reported annually.

The first was an early individual seen on 23rd June from Jackson's Bay Scarborough. The main passage began on 29th July with one south past Filey and one past Flamborough the next day. In August there were eight past Flamborough, two past Filey (13th and 26th), two past Scarborough (13th and 26th) and one past Spurn (26th). In September there were at least 20 past Flamborough, four past Filey (15th, two on 16th and 19th), and two past Spurn (9th and 15th), with three past Flamborough on 19th, making it the best day for passage. None were seen in October, but three exceptionally late individuals were recorded at Flamborough in November: one on 4th and two on 9th.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* **A**

Amber list: scarce to uncommon coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, dispersing southwards in autumn and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, pre-breeding wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring.

Unusually the first was inland, on Fewston Reservoir (VC64) for two hours on the afternoon of 22nd June (PCu). Trapping sessions at Burniston Bay, Filey, Flamborough and Spurn produced 33 ringed or controlled, plus a further two at nets but not captured between 30th June and 20th July. The first seawatch record came from Filey on the evening of 2nd August when one went south. The following day both Filey and Long Nab, Scarborough recorded singles and there was one past Flamborough the next day. Strong northerly winds on 12th August encouraged singles past Filey, Flamborough and Long Nab. On 13th August there were an exceptional six past Flamborough and singles past Filey, Spurn and Long Nab. Flamborough then recorded two on 15th August, one on the 16th and one on the 18th. A single bird was seen just off Bridlington Harbour on 9th September. There followed three further records in the last quarter: one past Spurn on 25th October, another there on 1st November and, finally, an exceptionally late bird past Flamborough on 16th December.

A single unidentified storm-petrel sp. flew south past Spurn on 9th September. A storm-petrel past Ulrome on 1st November in a strong northerly wind was thought to be European Storm-petrel, but the identification was not certain.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **A** 7,23,26,77,6

Amber list: rare to scarce coastal migrant, usually late autumn; rare inland

Breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species, it usually feeds well offshore and Yorkshire records usually involve gale-driven birds.

There were just three coastal records this year and unusually the last seawatch record and the three inland records were associated with a west coast wreck in early December. The first flew north at Spurn on 12th August. More than two months past before the next, a single south at Flamborough on 26th October. Finally the last records came in December; a single fed in Filey Bay for ten minutes on the morning of 4th December and is likely to have been blown across the country from the west coast. The next day one was found dead in Pickering (VC62), with others picked up dead on a Settle housing estate on 9th December and, similarly, one was reported from Sunnyside, Rotherham the following day.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon but increasing breeder, fairly common offshore. BBS 1/192

Breeds in the North Atlantic, with 60% of the East Atlantic population nesting in Britain and Ireland. Migrates southwards after breeding. Breeds only at Flamborough and Bempton.

Scarce along the coast at the start of the year, the largest movements past Long Nab were 750 north in three hours on 14th May and 1,750 north on 3rd August. At Filey 120 flew south in one hour on 15th January and 587 flew south in one hour on 12th February. Other good counts during the summer included 404 on 13th May, 700 on 26th June, 688 on 6th July and 514 on 9th July. The only notable count in the latter half was 200 juveniles south on 7th October.

Although the colony continues to flourish, there were no breeding figures received from Bempton. Flamborough produced some excellent counts: in the first quarter, 2,900 on 5th and 2,200 on 18th February and 2,000 on 25th March were the highest counts. During the breeding season, May saw an incredible 5,580 on 13th, 2,300 on 20th and 3,000 on 29th, while 2,700 were counted on 17th June and the year's maximum of 6,600 on 15th August. No count exceeded 500 in the last quarter. At Spurn the only decent count in the first three months was 239 south on 21st February. The highest counts came in August, coinciding with a large shoal of fish offshore and included 1,479 on 3rd, 1,085 on 12th and a new site record of 1,869 on 15th.

There were three inland records: an immature flew west over the A61 at Notton on 27th September; on 14th November a juvenile arrived from the north at Swillington Ings, disturbing all the birds present, before flying off over Swillington Park; and one flew south along the River Derwent at Low Catton on 29th December.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* **A**

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common winter visitor and migrant. BBS 11/192

Nominate *carbo* breeds on the coasts of the North Atlantic, including the Yorkshire coast. Cormorants also breed at three inland sites in the county, and continental race *sinensis* constitute most if not all of this population. Non-breeding summering birds are present on many inland waters.

No reports of breeding received from Wheldrake Ings or Castle Howard. However, 79 pairs were in the breeding colony at 'The Moat' at Fairburn Ings. Breeding again took place on the cliffs at Filey, although no counts made. The largest coastal numbers were post-breeding: 71 at Flamborough on 27th July, 31 at Spurn on 6th August, 46 at Barmston on 12th and Filey had a maximum of 56 on 21st August. A count of 50 at Atwick on 21st February was of note.

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hornsea Mere	101	102	96	76	65	118	74	82	38	16	38	107
Broomhill Ings	105	65	70	30	20	6	20	35	25	30	38	30
Southfield Res	40	36	23	24	18	23	24	48	55	72	54	50
Wintersett	10	9	10	5	3	3	3	11	19	10	13	20
Farnham GP	23	18	52	20	9	7	8	4	12	21	24	20
Lingham Lakes	27	14	10	2	2	1	4	5	12	12	9	4
Thrybergh CP	57	16	22	7	6	4	4	9	14	19	16	28

Inland the largest counts came from Fairburn Ings with 263 on 14th May, dropping to 60 by mid-September. Small numbers were widespread across the county, including most sites reporting several continental birds (*P.c.sinensis*); the table above gives the monthly maxima from sites with some of the largest concentrations. Other notable counts included 125 at Tophill Low NR on 8th October and 50 at Rother Valley on 22nd December.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* **A**

Amber list: scarce coastal breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds on rocky coats of the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, including northeast Yorkshire, with usually only local post-breeding dispersal.

Only single figure counts from Scarborough until ten feeding off Marine Drive on 2nd April. A colour-ringed bird in the harbour in early March was a returning bird from the Isle of May. One south off Marine Drive on 7th September was the forerunner to a general southerly passage in October and November; the largest being 22 past Marine Drive on 3rd November and 23 past Long Nab on 12th November. Wintering birds fluctuated around the mid-thirties in Filey Bay, before a spring peak of 40 on 15th April. Just two immatures remained during the summer and returning birds appeared from October; a winter census of the whole Bay on 26th December

produced 30. The stronghold is at Flamborough, and although no breeding information was received, up to 100 were present in the first winter period. Counts increased in autumn with up to 200 regular in October and a maximum of 372 on 29th. After 211 on 4th November, numbers slowly decreased with up to 100 present in December. Single-figure counts were occasional at Spurn throughout the year, although recorded more frequently in October and November, with a high of just 13 on 3rd November.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* **A** 29,43,24,36,44

Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding species and scarce migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/192

The small British breeding population continues to slowly recover following extensive management work on reedbeds across the country. Yorkshire's small breeding population is augmented by continental immigrants. Another good year, particularly in South and West Yorkshire where good numbers continue to winter.

Potteric Carr again proved to be the site, where one to four were recorded almost daily from January to March and six were present on 24th January; a few singles were seen during April, until the last sighting on 24th. The first returned on 1st August and then occasional singles until October when numbers increased; four were present at the year-end. At Wintersett, up to two roosted regularly in the reedbed on the Top Res from 1st January to 2nd February, with one remaining until 15th March. The viewing conditions were much more difficult later in the year due to the high reeds with singles only noted on 15th October and 3rd December. Broomhill Ings had three birds present from the beginning of the year to 5th March. In the late winter period, a single present from 23rd December to the year end.

One to two seen regularly at Pit House West/Rother Valley from January to 25th March and then a single from 4th October to the end of the year. Singles recorded at Swillington Ings on five dates: 21st January; the unusual date of 20th June; 5th October; 15th November and 21st December. Fairburn recorded just one during the year on 7th February, while Pugneys had one to two on the reserve lake from 28th October to the year-end and a third bird on nearby Calder Wetlands on 19th November.

One was at Staveley NR, near Harrogate from 19th to 21st February, while in the north-east of the county two, possibly three, at Coatham Marsh on 7th March, with one until 18th.

In East Yorkshire, there was one in the Tophill Low area from 4th to 26th February and again on 11th August and 28th October. Hornsea Mere attracted singles on 17th February and 1st May. The first site record for North Cave Wetlands was of one on 2nd May, and Spurn had its 4th and 5th records; one flushed from Wire Dump on 24th March and the other on Canal Scrape on 6th and 7th August. Another unusual coastal record was of on at the old cliff top farm at Holmpton on 29th March.

During the breeding season, booming males were present at three sites within the county from late March until late May and females were present at two of these sites. A single nest was located and is thought to have been successful, with a juvenile seen nearby in August.

CATTLE EGRET *Bulbulcus ibis* 0,0,1,0,1

Vagrant; 7 previous records

One was discovered on the flashes at Fairburn Ings at 1000hrs on 15th October (JGl *et al.*). It remained until dusk, but then flew off west and there was no sign the following day. Coincidently the last county record, a summer-plumaged adult, was in exactly the same place in July 2004.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in increasing numbers

Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France. The species has established colonies in southern England and continues to expand its range.

The number of sightings and individuals continues to increase, particularly along the Humber and at the wetland complexes in South and West Yorkshire; surely a matter of time before it becomes a breeding species.

Records came from every month, with the first at Silverwood, Rotherham on New Year's Day. The epicentre of records came from Paull Holme Strays, which recorded 61 birds, including 10 on 23rd August; the first double-figure count recorded in Yorkshire. Spurn recorded 28 bird/days between 16th April and 6th December, with a maximum of three on 18th June and 24th August, and similar numbers (probably involving largely the same birds) at nearby Beacon Ponds. Up river, Blacktoft Sands held up to three during the summer, with high counts of four on 9th June and 8th September. Three flew south over Thorne Moors on 5th June, three were at Fairburn Ings on 6th June and then Swillington Ings on 7th and 8th June, while other sites that had regular sightings of one to two birds during the summer included Broomhill Ings, Welwick Marsh, North Cave Wetlands, and Denaby Ings. Occasional singles were recorded at: five sites in the Harrogate area; Wintersett area; Edderthorpe Flash; Southfield Res; Sprotborough Flash; Potteric Carr; Thorpe Marsh; Stone Creek; Tophill Low NR; Hornsea Mere; Pulfin Bog; North Duffield Carrs; Wheldrake Ings; Buckton; Flamborough; Filey; Scarborough; Firsby Res; Catcliffe Flash; Rother Valley and Midhope Res.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba* 2,5,2,0,3

Extremely rare late spring and summer migrant; 25 previous records (27 birds)

Three records during the year, with the latter two involving wide-ranging and long staying birds.

The first flew south over Wheldrake Ings on 4th May and was relocated the next day at North Duffield Carrs (DT *et al.*).

In June one flew north over Aldbrough at 1005 hrs on 8th and was found at Hornsea later the same evening (TI: AFJ *et al.*). On 10th it flew over Atwick heading in the direction of Hornsea Mere, where it was last seen on 11th May.

A single spent 11th to 24th October at Swillington Ings (JNS: GR *et al.*). It then moved to Broomhill Ings on 24th October and stayed until 26th, spending its days feeding at Broomhill Flash and roosting at Wath Ings. It reappeared at Swillington Ings again on 27th and then was seen flying north-west over Anglers Country Park on 28th (PS: GJS: PM) before arriving back at Swillington Ings by 1115 hrs. The following day it was seen at Broomhill Flash mid-morning (JES *et al.*), before flying north over Haw Park, Wintersett (PS) and finally reappearing at Swillington Ings where it remained until 31st.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* **A**

Uncommon resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 51/192

BTO Heronries Census data shows the number of occupied nests increased to 396, with at least 45 other nests reported from smaller colonies. The largest was at Bretton Park, with 62 occupied nests and other sites held 38, 26 and 25 occupied nests.

Counts away from the breeding colonies were generally low: 20 at Rother Valley CP on 15th February; 36 in fields adjacent to Holbeck Wood colony, Harrogate on 17th February; 19 at Southfield Res on 11th May; 30 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd and 9th May; 17 at Eccup Res on 7th June. In the latter half there were: 13 at Blacktoft Sands on 20th July; 14 at Rodley NR on 16th September; 20 on 17th September at Lindley Wood Res and 30 on 22nd October at Broomhill Ings. Coastal migrants included up to six at Flamborough in October, while Spurn saw 23 south and 15 in off the sea between 7th July and 28th October, including nine south on 11th September and five in off on 1st October.

Unusually one at Bellflask Quarry in August was catching and swallowing moles.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* **A** 0,0,0,2,1

Rare visitor; 59 previous records (56 birds)

This visitor from southern Europe breeds just across the North Sea in the Netherlands, but remains a rare bird in Yorkshire.

An adult in breeding plumage dropped into the reed beds at Wath Ings (Old Moor RSPB) at 1020 hrs on 13th June. It moved onto Bolton Ings for nearly an hour early afternoon, before returning to Wath Ings and then left south at 1835 hrs (KD *et al.*).

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* **A** 1,0,0,1,1

Extremely rare visitor; 10 previous records

This migratory species breeds from central Iberia through central Europe to Russia and Siberia, with small numbers in Greece and Turkey, wintering in Africa and South Asia.

On 23rd May one was first seen from Wykeham Raptor Viewpoint at 1355 hrs and it left to the south-east (AA); the bird was then seen continuing south-east over Filey 25 minutes later (CCT).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* **AE**

Scarce migrant; escapes from Harewood confuse status

As with previous years, it is hard to determine which are genuine, wild individuals and which originate from Harewood House.

In the Harrogate area, two were at a farm near Nidd on 6th January, with one remaining the next day. A single flew over Saltaire on 11th April. On 4th May one flew in from the north-west at 1155 hrs at North Cave Wetlands and then circled over North Cave village for ten minutes before drifting off in a south-easterly direction; later the same day perhaps the same was reported over Holme-upon-Spalding Moor at 1205 hrs. One

was at Skip Bridge, near Green Hammerton on 16th May. A single was photographed flying over Darfield, Barnsley on 15th June and one remained in the Tophill Low NR/ Watton area from 20th to 23rd August.

A bird fitted with a yellow ring (apparently fitted in Holland) ranged widely through the country and was seen at Worsall Bank near Yarm on 13th September and was relocated at Newham Grange near Aislaby the next day, where it remained until 16th. The bird was seen near Thirsk from 25th to 29th September and then frequented the area around Melmerby near Harrogate from 9th October to the year end.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* **A** 25,28,13,8,20

Amber list: scarce migrant and summer visitor April – Sept

Breeds in South-east Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population and has recently increased. It was a good year for this species, with a nice spring influx particularly along the East Coast.

The first flew north over Anglers Country Park at 2005hrs on 4th May. The bird was seen later the same day at Swillington when it drifted south-east over Swillington Park and Ings and was seen flying off from there towards Mickletown Ings the following day. The next was at Spurn also on 5th May, when one flew north at 0540 hrs and returned south at 0605 hrs, the bird then reappeared on the Humber at 1100 hrs before leaving south five minutes later. Also in May, a sub-adult flew north over South Gare on 9th; one flew south at Spurn at 1610 hrs on 11th; a single was at Paull Holme Strays on 13th-14th, one was at Nosterfield NR from 14th-17th; at Spurn, three came in off the sea at 0620 hrs and continued north-west on 17th; and an immature flew north past the Point and landed briefly on the Humber before returning south at 0800 hrs on 19th; on 20th a bird spent the morning at Potteric Carr; a first-summer bird spent 15 minutes at Scalby Lodge Pond, Scarborough before flying south at 1445 hrs on 24th. Presumably the same appeared at Filey Dams from the north-east at 1900hrs and then remained overnight, before departing south-east at 1050hrs the next morning. What was again likely to be the same individual flew south at Spurn at 1607 hrs the same day; one briefly visited Filey Dams on 28th, before departing to the north-west.

In June, one was at Swillington Ings on 9th, while at Spurn two flew south and turned west up the Humber on 11th. There was a good series of records at Blacktoft Sands during the summer: two present between 29th June to 7th July; one on 13th; two on 17th-18th; then three from 19th to 26th; and two on 31st. One stayed from 1st -5th August and again from 15th to 25th August. At Fairburn one spent most of its stay on Village Bay Island from 30th July-8th August and presumably the same was present again at the same location between 15th and 18th August.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* **A** 14,20,15,17,21

Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant May – Sept

This long-distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving mid- to late May, and leaving from mid-August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants.

An adult north-west over Spurn on 18th May (RSc: AR: PC *et al.*) constituted the only spring migrant.

The first bird returned to the regular breeding area near Scarborough on 21st May, with one pair successfully fledging three young. At least one additional male and a female were also present, with the last bird remaining until 11th September.

In August three circled Flask Lakes, Nosterfield on 19th (MB: RTP). A notable influx then occurred in September, with one over Filey on 15th the first (PC *et al.*), followed by another over Filey Dams the following day (AJB: MK: MQ). A total of three flew south over Spurn on 16th, two early on in the day (IC: ICW *et al.*) and later a third, which was initially seen over Easington (ICW). The following day witnessed one west at Spurn (CH: RJB), with two singles the same day over Easington. One flew over Anglers CP on 26th September (JBB), while the following day, a radio-tagged juvenile originating from Strathnairn, Scotland roosted in a wood near Bellflask Quarry.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* **A** 1,0,0,1,1

Extremely rare visitor: 19 previous records

Breeds throughout continental Europe, with good populations in Spain, France and Germany, and winters in Africa and north-west India. Also breeds through Russia to Siberia, with other races present in Africa, India, SE Asia and Australia.

A single was watched for several minutes from 1130hrs as it headed north at Nosterfield on 29th April (SPW); although this was the twentieth county record, this species remains a highly sought after prize for county listers and a long-stayer is surely overdue.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* **AC**

Amber list: scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introduction schemes. BBS 6/192

Records continue to increase; noteworthy sightings away from breeding areas included singles at Guisborough on 4th February and in March: over Fairburn Ings on 20th, north over Spurn and Easington on 25th, with one the next day at Flamborough. April witnessed an increase in extralimital records: a single over Filey Dams on 2nd April was the eighth local record. Halifax recorded its best ever year, with the first of twelve records at Walshaw Dean from 5th to 7th April. Singles over Pugneys CP on 6th and 23rd April were the first site records; singles flew over Fairburn Ings and Blackmoorfoot on 12th April, Burton Fleming on 16th, Sleddale 17th, Blacktoft Sands on 23rd and a wing-tagged bird over Moorhouse Lane Ponds, Wintersett on 27th April. In May birds were reported going south over Easington on 10th, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 17th, Filey on 18th and over central Bradford on 28th May.

There was a continued increase in the breeding population, with 45 territorial pairs located, of which 40 pairs attempted to breed. A total of 36 pairs successfully fledged 75 young, a mean of 1.87 young per breeding pair and 2.08 young per successful pair.

In July birds were at Thorne Moors on 13th, south at Beacon Ponds and Spurn on 30th, when one was also in the Cononley area. One took up temporary residence to the south-west of Southfield Res. between 11th August and 6th September and singles were near Fairburn Ings on 30th and over Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 31st Aug. In September singles included birds over Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 3rd, in the Cononley area on 11th, Walshaw Dean on 23rd and 24th, Midgley Moor on 24th and a wing-tagged bird and untagged juvenile Sleddale on 29th, with the latter present on 30th. During October singles overflew Thorne Moors on 13th and Guisborough on 31st, with two in the Cononley area on 1st Nov.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* **A**

Amber list: scarce but increasing breeder; uncommon migrant. BBS 3/192

This opportunistic species has increased in numbers in the county, and although most migrate south as far as southern Africa, a few birds now over-winter.

Up to five roosted from January-March at Blacktoft Sands and a female seen on six dates in January at North Cave Wetlands. Passage birds appeared from late March, with the first bird back at Thorne Moors on 22nd; up to four were then present during the breeding season and one remained until 30th November. Elsewhere, an adult male was at Fly Flatts and Warley Moor Res on 25th March and the first of 48 spring records flew through Spurn on 26th, while a pair arrived at Pulfin & High Eske on 29th March. Passage birds in the first half of April included singles in Ryedale on 1st, Pugneys CP on 3rd, an immature male at Swillington Ings and a male at Sleddale on 8th, a male over Filey Dams on 12th April. In the latter half of April singles were at Went Ings, Grimwith, Boulby, Wath Ings, Wintersett, Swillington Ings, South Gare, Colsterdale, Filey, Bolton Ings and Pugneys CP, with three there on 30th April. Passage increased during May with transient birds noted at over 21 locations; typically Spurn recorded the most, with a maximum count of five on 16th May.

Breeding records were again focused on the Humber, where birds continue to prosper; two breeding females at Blacktoft Sands were indicative of the strength of the population. Away from the estuary, a pair bred at Buckton and fledged two young and a pair fledged three juveniles at Pulfin & High Eske.

Notable June records included one through Barden Moor on 7th, a single at Aigill on 10th and daily sightings at Swillington Ings (through until early October), with a maximum of three on 29th June. Singles recorded on nine dates at Nosterfield from 5th June through to 9th September; while in July noteworthy records included singles at Staveley on 3rd and 19th, a cream-crown at Fly Flatts on 15th and regular reports of a juvenile at Fairburn Ings until the end of September. Autumn passage at Spurn totaled 46 birds between 17th July and 26th Oct, with a maximum of seven on 6th August. Other August records included two at Lisset airfield on 12th, a single at Farnham on 14th and 28th, one that attempted to roost at Pugneys CP on 16th, a single at Bellflask Quarry on 19th and 27th and finally, a juvenile at Barden on 29th August. A single was observed near Harewood on 2nd September and four at Southfield Res on 8th September was a record count; two were in the Bradford recording area the following day, at Sandwith Moor and Leeshaw Res. October witnessed birds continuing to disperse across the region and unusually, singles were at Staveley on 6th, in the Luddenden Valley on 10th and at Walshaw Dean on 23rd. At Blacktoft Sands the highest count was seven on 23rd October, with up to five birds present up until the year end. Several others lingered into November: a female was at North Cave Wetlands on 7th and a male there on 28th; one at Swillington Ings on 18th; a juvenile took a Moorhen off Broomhill Flash on 18th and was seen the following day at Old Moor. A female was at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd December and four were still on Thorne Moors on 17th December.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* **A**

Red list: rare breeder; uncommon to scarce migrant and winter visitor

The number of wintering birds appears to be in decline and is highlighted by the lowest number recorded in the Bradford recording area since 1991; 17 records were thought to relate to only 13 different birds. At Blacktoft Sands up to three roosted in January, including a grey male and wing-tagged female. Three were present in February, with four ringtails on 10th, up to two were present in March and the last single was a ringtail on 19th April. Elsewhere a male was at Thorne Moors on 1st January, one at Welwick on 2nd, a ringtail at Starr Carr on 10th, a juvenile at Barden Scale on 11th–12th January and a male and a ringtail were seen intermittently in Ryedale area between 12th into March. Other January sightings included: a female at Cherry Cobb Sands on 15th, a ringtail sporadically at Scaling Dam between 15th–29th, a single at Rillington on 18th, with ringtails at Pulfin & High Eske on 21st, at Broomhead Moor and Ewden on 22nd, Starbeck on 23rd and two at Gouthwaite on 31st January. Singles were recorded on eight dates between 23rd January and 20th February in the Upper Little Don Valley.

In February ringtails were at Spurn on 1st, an adult female at North Cave Wetlands on 3rd, two at Gouthwaite on 5th, when one was also at Easington. One was at Pulfin & High Eske on 21st February, with a male and two ringtails at Thorne Moors in early February and the male remaining to 23rd March. In March a ringtail was on Harland Moor on 1st, Wykeham Forest on 5th, a ringtail north over Southfield Res on 12th, at North Cave Wetland on 19th, when one was also at Barden Scale. A ringtail was at Pulfin & High Eske and a first-summer male in the south-west of Halifax on 25th March, a ringtail at Spurn on 26th March and an adult male at Whetstone Gate on 29th March.

During April: an adult and first-summer male were in Sleddale on 1st with the latter remaining until 11th April; a ringtail at Thorne Moors and Starr Carr on 2nd; a male over Old Moor and a male west over Southfield Res on 3rd; an adult male at Long Moor on 5th; a ringtail at Spurn on 12th; at Timble Ings on 14th; near Oxenhope on 16th; a ringtail at Pulfin & High Eske on 25th, two ringtails and a male at Spurn on 25th April, a ringtail at Shaw Rigg and Ousegill and another at Ryedale on 27th April. There were a number of records from Spurn in May, with an adult male present on 4th, an immature male through on 6th, a male and female on 12th, two ringtails on 13th and additional singles on 16th and 23rd.

Inland there were records from areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat, with a female in the north-west of Halifax area on 2nd, an adult male at Barden Scale on 16th and a ringtail near Leeshaw on 29th–30th May, but unfortunately none lingered. It was another poor year in the Dales in what should be the core breeding area with an adult male, first-year male and three females noted during the early breeding season. The adult male was paired to two of the females and the first-year male paired to a first-year female that had been wing tagged at Geltsdale. A least two of the females were seen carrying nesting material, but with the exception of one of the females, all the birds disappeared from 23rd–30th April. The consistent disappearance of displaying, nest building and/or incubating Hen Harriers in this area of managed grouse moor over many years is indicative of illegal persecution.

A pair also nested in the south of the county, although the male disappeared on 1st/2nd June (in the same 48 hour period that another male from a nesting pair just across the county boundary also 'disappeared'). Fortunately, the female had already started to hunt for and feed the chicks, and so managed to successfully fledge five young. Although supplementary food was made available, it was rarely taken.

At another site in the Dales, an adult male and female were seen to food pass on one date in early June, but had not been seen in the area before this observation and were not seen subsequently. Also in June a single was over Easington on 3rd and a ringtail over Hutton Buscel Moor on 20th; the only record in August came from Barden on 2nd.

At Blacktoft Sands the first to return was a ringtail on 9th September and singles were then noted regularly until a ringtail and adult male were present on 30th December. Although only singles were recorded until the penultimate day, the presence of a wind-tagged bird on 14th September indicates that different individuals were using the roost. In September singles were also at Sandwith Moor on 9th, at North Cave Wetland on 11th and a ringtail was in the Cononley area on 30th. Records increased during October, with singles at Gouthwaite and Sandwith Moor on 8th, a ringtail at Filey on 10th and ringtails at Spurn on 12th–13th and almost daily 22nd–28th. Other October sightings included: south at Buckton on 13th; ringtails at Old Cote Moor, Whetstone Gate and Kex Gill; Flamborough on 18th; Noska Gate and South Nab in the Bradford area on 23rd; Barden at 24th; a ringtail at Scaling Dam on 26th; Sandwith Moor on 27th and an immature, probably a male, at Swillington Ings on 29th October–2nd November. Reports decreased in November with one near Ripon on 1st, two at Gouthwaite on 8th with one there again on the 12th Nov, and singles at Thorne Moors and Filey on 14th. An adult male, adult female, second-year female and possible juvenile were in the north-west of the Halifax area on 2nd December, with the female noted again on 9th and 17th, a single was at Agil on 8th, an adult male at Spurn on 3rd and finally a single at Menwith Hill on 31st December.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* **A** 9,7,6,11,4

Amber list: rare to scarce migrant: has bred

The rarest and most migratory of Britain's three breeding species of harrier, the national population has recovered from just on pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north-west Europe east to Siberia wintering south of the Sahara. It is a rare spring and autumn migrant in the county, although each year there is a small number of unconfirmed reports.

A first-summer male hunted the Top Fields, Filey on 11th May (PC *et al.*), one was in the Easington area on 19th June (AJS) and a ringtail overflew Castle Howard on 24th June (RSS); finally a sub-adult male graced Grimwith Res on 22nd August (GF).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* **AC**

Scarce resident breeder and passage migrant. BBS 1/192

With few records received of what can be a very secretive species, the true status of this magnificent raptor is difficult to determine.

There was a female over Old Pool Bank on 23rd February and in March a female was over Wintersett on 4th. Singles were at Atwick on 11th May and 13th June, with one at Lockington on 17th June.

The woodlands in the North Yorkshire Moors appear to sustain a healthy population and there were regular sightings from the Wykeham Raptor viewpoint; a pair was also present near South Cave. Elsewhere, a pair displayed at a site near Sheffield in late February/early March, but were not thought to have bred successfully. Recorded at five sites (on eight dates) in the Halifax area and two sites in the Bradford area; at the first a male was present on 28th January and a sub-adult female on 31st March, while a pair was present at the other site, but there was no evidence of breeding. Records from former breeding areas in Dales were very scarce, with singles noted in Colsterdale on 23rd April and near Lofthouse on 5th May. There were no other breeding season records from Nidderdale. In Cleveland, single birds were reported from four locations, with a pair at one site between March and April. There were only two extralimital records in the latter part of the year, with singles at Nosterfield on 8th September and Bishop Monkton on 24th October.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* **A**

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 30/192

The population of this widespread but probably under-reported species is now static or still increasing slowly. Again widely reported, but with few indications of any significant population changes. However, two areas suggested a population decline; there was no indication of breeding at Malham Tarn and records were far fewer dates at Pulfin & High Eske than the previous year. The only notable counts in the first winter period were five at Gouthwaite on 14th January and eight at Old Moor on 16th April. On the coast possible spring migrants included up to four at Flamborough in late March and a maximum of eight there on 12th May, whilst at Spurn 29 birds appeared to move south between 5th March and 24th May.

It was described as a widespread breeder in many areas, including Cleveland and Scarborough in the east and Bradford and Leeds in the west. Southerly passage again witnessed through Spurn, with a total of 31 south past the narrows between 13th and 23rd October, which included eight on the former date. At Filey, two were ringed in August, four in September and three in October, whilst at Flamborough there were six on 20th August and seven on 18th September, with up to four present during October. There was an unusual record of a bird attempting to eat fat from a bird feeder at Westwood on 7th November, but more expected were up to three birds hunting the starling roost at Wintersett during November.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* **A**

Uncommon resident breeder; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 18/192

The breeding population is increasing and it has expanded its range eastwards markedly in the last 10 years, particularly in the Wolds and VC 62.

It was recorded from 35 sites in the Harrogate area, with maxima of nine in October at Staveley, seven in January at Farnham and eight in January at Gouthwaite. Elsewhere, there were eight at Fairburn on 30th January and seven at Swillington Ings on 16th February. Increased in the Wintersett area, with regular sightings from March to the year end, while in April five were at Eccup on 18th. Along the coast there was one south at Easington on 28th March and another at Spurn the following day. In April singles were at Spurn on 22nd, Easington on 27th and again at Spurn on 30th. Other coastal records included singles at Flamborough on 2nd May, Spurn on 9th, Flamborough on 12th May and Spurn on 23rd May and 14th June.

The breeding range and number of pairs continues to increase, with several pairs now present in the Vale of Pickering and the Hackness area in the east. Now resident in the North Cave area, regular at Pulfin & High Eske and it was a record breaking year at Southfield Res. There were birds present at three sites in Ryedale area in May, whilst in the Harrogate area breeding proven at seven sites, and probably two others sites in the lowlands, with five pairs on high ground. There were widespread records from the Dales: ten pairs fledged 15 young in Wharfedale; four pairs fledged eight young in the Washburn Valley, where breeding was suspected at a number of other sites; there were numerous records from Upper Wharfedale; one pair in the Malham Tarn area probably failed; and to the south, two territorial pairs were in the Cononley area. It was the best year on record in the Halifax area, with a total of 81 records from 15 sites and included the first successful breeding in Calderdale, where one pair fledged two young. A pair bred to the north of Leeds with more records for Buzzard in the Leeds area than for Sparrowhawk; a pair successfully bred near Fairburn. There was also a territorial pair in south Cleveland in during the summer. In the Bradford area, up to nine birds were seen at Barden in every month, with 14 on one day in September.

Presumed migrants were at Flamborough on 2nd and 7th August and one unfortunate bird over Wire Dump at Spurn on 4th August later ditched in the sea off the point. Also in August there were nine at Swillington Ings on 16th, a single at North Landing, Flamborough on 18th and on the 20th: five were at Eccup, three were also over Old Moor and singles overflew Spurn and Catwick. A total of 13 were at Southfield Res on 25th August, five were in the Flamborough area on 27th, with three over Spurn on 29th August. September sightings included at least six at Southfield Res on 8th and three west at Spurn on 12th and three over Old Moor on 15th. Notable late records included three over Wintersett on 28th October and one in off the sea at Filey on 19th November with almost certainly the same seen at Holbeck later in the day.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* **A** 2,4,5,2,1

Rare migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts.

One hunting the slopes above Leighton Res on 12th February and considered likely to be a second calendar–year, was the only accepted record (PVI, YE).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* **A**

Amber list: scarce but regular passage migrant

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is migratory, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county.

The first flew over Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 5th March, followed by the first of a record seven sightings in the Halifax area at Fly Flatts on 25th March. At the end of the month singles went over Scalby Mills on 26th, Colsterdale on 29th, Easington on 30th and Wykeham Lakes on 31st March. In April birds passed through Sleddale on 1st and 6th, over Cononley Ings on 2nd, Barden on 7th, with two birds possibly accounting for a further five records at this site during the month. A single was seen intermittently at Wintersett from 5th–9th April, two were at Lockwood Beck on 8th, and singles were at North Cave Wetlands on 11th, Bellflask and Flask Lakes on 14th, Wintersett on 15th, Staveley NR on 17th, over the Shibden Valley on 19th, over Old Moor and Wombwell Ings on 22nd and Easington on 27th April. A bird over Pugneys CP on 3rd May was the first there since 2000, whilst others were seen over Wintersett and Swillington Ings on 4th, Dalby on 6th and Spurn's only spring record on 10th May. There were also records from Filey on 11th, at Southfield Res and the Nosterfield area on 12th, Barden on 16th, Cononley Ings on 20th, over Old Moor on 21st, Timble Ings on 25th, near West Tanfield on 30th, at North Cave Wetlands and Leighton Res on 31st May. One lingered at Scaling Dam from 25th–28th May, with possibly the same again on 5th June.

During the summer there was one over Reighton on 8th June and an interesting series of records from the Harrogate area, with sightings from Bellflask Quarry on 3rd, Ripley Lakes on 15th and West Tanfield 30th June. In July singles were at North Cave Wetland on 1st and 9th, Thornton Moor Res on 14th, with intermittent sightings of a single at Scaling Dam between 18th July and 15th August. Other July records included singles over Blacktoft Sands on 19th, and Fairburn and Wintersett on 26th. In August one flew north over Spurn on 20th, with possibly the same bird south-east the following morning, singles were at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 21st and Barden on 25th, with two south at Spurn and singles at Staveley on 27th and Farnham on 31st. There was moderate passage in September, with singles at Barden on 1st, Blacktoft Sands on 3rd, when two birds also went through Farnham, at Spurn and over Widdop on 4th and a series of sightings on 5th: with records from Farnham, Spurn, Fairburn, two over Ogden, over Soil Hill and Lindley Wood Res. Further singles included: south at Spurn on 6th September, at Flask Lakes and Cononley Ings on 10th, followed by a single over Old Moor, Broomhill and Wombwell Ings. Additional September records came from Wintersett on 14th, Barden on 15th, Lower Laithe Res (Bradford) on 17th, Spurn 19th, south over Pugneys CP on 23rd, Luddenden Valley on 25th September. Three different individuals were recorded at Bellflask Quarry in August and September. Late birds were over Grassington on 13th October, one came in off the sea at Filey on 17th October and one was reported for several days around Howkeld Mill, Ryedale for several days in November.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* **A**

Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant.

BBS 56/192: -25% (-9) decrease 1994-2006, -40% (-6) decrease 2005-06

There were few notable records in the first period, apart from 12 at Malham Cove on 2nd January, with eight at Old Moor also through the same month. Up to six birds were at Barden in April, whilst the number of birds at Old Moor increased to ten on 14th April and five were at Fairburn on several dates in spring. A total of 20 migrants were noted at Spurn in spring, all heading south between 22nd April and 27th May with four on 25th and 26th April.

Overall, Kestrel numbers appear to be stable across the county, although they were recorded less frequently at Pugneys CP and there were far fewer records from Pulfin & High Eske than previous years. Widespread breeding records included: two territorial birds at Wintersett, with one pair successful; two territorial pairs at Old Moor; a pair at Southfield Res and single pairs bred at Midhope Res and Stocksbridge in the Barnsley area. Display was noted at three sites in the Halifax area, where there were three confirmed breeding attempts at two sites, although other pairs were considered to have been overlooked. This species appears to be doing well in Harrogate area and there were eight confirmed breeding pairs located in the Bradford recording area, with probable pairs noted at a further ten sites. A pair probably bred near Fairburn and status remained unchanged in the Leeds area, although fewer birds than normal were reported in autumn. Two pairs in Malham Tarn area failed and there were six territorial pairs in the Cononley area, with successful breeding at four sites. A pair occupied a nest box near Guisborough, but despite laying an egg by early May, they were then evicted by a pair of barn owls which fledged two young. Described as a widespread breeding species in the Scarborough area and there was no change in status at either Filey or Flamborough. Outside the breeding season up to eight birds were noted at Barden between July and September, nine (including four juveniles) were at Winscar Res on 12th August and 20 were at Malham Tarn in September. On the coast there was light autumn passage at Spurn, with 72 south between 6th August and 31st October, including 17 on 17th and 11 on 19th September. Up to ten were at Flamborough in late September, with 13 on 17th, 23 on 23rd, 20 on 24th, 12 on 26th, and 18 on 27th September.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* 1,1,1,0,1

Rare visitor; 62 previous records

A male initially south at Spurn at 1830hrs on 11th June, then headed back north (JG *et al.*) and presumably the same individual then flew over Hornsea Mere later the same evening (LB, EJH, RL).

Red-footed Falcon ●
Jack Ashton-Booth

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* **A**

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/ winter visitor. BBS 5/192

In January singles recorded at three sites in the Scarborough area, Wintersett on 1st, at Thorne Moors from 1st –5th, Skeffling and Southfield Res on 2nd, two at Swillington Ings and one at Flamborough on 7th, a female at Old Moor on 8th January and at North Cave Wetland on 9th. Other January records included singles on eight dates at Spurn with two on 7th, a female at Southfield Res on 20th and two males at Southfield Res and one at Swillington Ings on 22nd January. In February a male was at North Cave Wetlands on 7th, at Hornsea Mere on 12th, North Cave Wetlands on 14th and 18th with another at Southfield Res on the latter date, Cononley Ings on 21st and at Southfield Res on 25th February. A male was at Swillington Ings on three dates in February and singles were noted at Spurn on ten dates during the month. In the early part of the year there were single records from Fairburn in January and February, winter records from three sites in the Bradford area, a female at Filey from January until mid-February followed by a single record in March, two in April and one present from 10th–13th May. Up to two birds roosted at Blacktoft Sands RSPB between January–March, with the last noted on 20th April.

In March there were records from Southfield Res on 1st and 3rd, two at Spurn on 4th and sporadically at Old Moor from 7th–23rd. Other reports included at Spurn on 10th, Swillington Ings on 13th, a first-winter male at Welwick on 18th March, a male at Cononley Ings on 19th and a female at Southfield Res on 26th–27th. Other March sightings included one south at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 26th and a female at Yeadon Tarn on 29th March. At Spurn, singles were daily from 18th March until early May, with two birds present on at least nine dates during April. Recorded on six dates at Beal Carrs between 3rd January and 7th April and from ten localities in the Harrogate area between January and April and again between September and December; birds also noted on two dates in spring at Malham Tarn. An unusual record was of a moribund female found next to a dead kestrel on the road near Cowpen Marsh on 9th April, which were presumed to have been hit by traffic while fighting. Also in April there were records from Swillington Ings on 15th, Wintersett from 16th–18th, at Southfield Res on 16th and a female at Old Moor on 24th. Flamborough recorded singles on 22nd April and 4th May, while in late May one was in Harewood Dale Forest on 31st.

Undoubtedly the number of breeding reports received gives only a snapshot of the true picture; four pairs in the Barnsley area, with an additional displaying pair at one of the sites in early April. At least three pairs successfully fledged three, four and five young in Nidderdale, with at least four more territorial pairs present. Breeding was proven at two sites in the Halifax area, where each pair fledged a single chick, with birds seen in two other areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat. It was a successful year in the Bradford area, with breeding recorded in three areas where two pairs fledged six young, two pairs fledged eight young and seven pairs fledged 27 young; the highest ever annual total.

In the latter part of the year there were sightings at Old Moor on 22nd July, at Pulfin & High Eske on 28th, a juvenile at Filey on 20th, at Wykeham on 29th, Flamborough on 30th and returned to Blacktoft Sands on 31st July; the latter site had further records on three dates in August, including two on 28th, and singles between September to December. The first returning bird at Spurn was on 6th August, with singles on a further nine dates in the month while recorded at Flamborough on three dates in August and again on 4th September. Other August records included singles at Swillington Ings on 10th, an immature at Wintersett on 11th, Sawden on 13th, a male at Old Moor on 16th, a female at Broomhill on 17th, a female at Rodley NR on 20th and Wath Ings on 30th. There were also single records at Fairburn from Aug through to December and regular sightings from high ground in the Halifax area from August to the year end. In September singles were at Thorne Moors on 3rd, Southfield Res on 6th, at Buckton on 12th, at Thorne Moors on 19th, at Broomhill Ings on 21st, with three birds south at Thornton Moor Res on 22nd September and singles at two other sites in the month from the Bradford area. Up to two were almost daily at Spurn from September to the year-end, with four on 17th September and 23rd October and five on 30th October. At Filey recorded on three dates in August, only two in September, but almost daily from 8th October until 22nd November, when at least three individuals were present; a further three records followed in December. A maximum of three were at Flamborough in October, a female was in the Cononley area on 3rd and 15th, an immature was at Wintersett and a male at Wath 8th and singles were at Eccup Res, North Cave Wetlands and Southfield Res on 26th October. There were also two autumn/winter records from Malham Tarn. Singles were at Flamborough on 2nd and 26th November, with one at Thorne Moors on 23rd November. In December, one was at Southfield Res on 2nd and 25th, a female was at also Swillington Ings from 2nd until mid-month, a male was at Wintersett on 3rd and singles were at Beal Carrs on 8th, Cononley Ings on 9th, Flamborough on 18th and again at Beal Carrs on 30th December.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* **A**

Scarce breeding summer visitor, scarce to uncommon passage migrant. BBS 1/192

It is thought that pairs of this visitor from tropical Africa bred in the county. The number of sightings each year increases, but proof of breeding is difficult to obtain.

Southfield Res recorded its earliest ever on 22nd April, with the next record two together at Thorne Moors on 25th, with singles at Tophill on 26th, at Hornsea Mere on 28th and Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 30th. Tophill then recorded birds on a further 21 dates up to 15th September, with two on 14th May. Records increased during May with an adult at Widdop on 3rd, at Fairburn on 6th, at Pulfin & High Eske on 7th, Sand Hutton and two north at Southfield Res on 9th, Scalby 10th with singles at North Cave Wetlands and Southfield Res on 13th. Three singles flew over Flask Lakes on 14th, singles at Nunthorpe and Southfield Res on 16th, two at Flask lakes on 21st and one at Farnham on 21st and one at Scalby Lodge Pond on 24th May. There were five records from Old Moor during May; becoming more frequent at Wintersett and present from 4th–7th May, with another on 28th. The first of 40 sightings at Swillington Ings came on 10th May, with up to three present until July. Spurn's first was on 5th May, with one south on 7th and singles were present on 13th–14th May; nearby recorded on a number of dates at Easington from May until August. Filey had an above average year, with one lingering from 18th May until 6th June and a further five records thereafter, while there were records from Flamborough on 5th, 12th, and 21st May, 10th June and 21st July. Blacktoft Sands recorded singles in May and June, two dates in July and one in August, while during the summer there were between one to three at Spurn on ten dates in June, three over Beacon Ponds on 11th, one over Otley on 12th, two birds at Wath Ings on 13th and a single at there on 15th June. On 19th June a single was at Watton on 19th, Scalby Lodge Pond on 22nd and at adjacent Jackson's Bay on 23rd and 28th June, with records on six dates during the month at North Cave Wetlands.

Confirmed breeding was again difficult to prove, but pairs were suspected to have bred in several areas. A pair displayed at Fairburn on 11th May, with three present on 12th and singles seen on a further three dates in May and one in June; up to two birds were present in July and Aug, including a juvenile and the last was noted on 12th October. There were records of a displaying male and female over Old Moor on 14th May and an adult hunted sand martins at Wintersett on several dates in late August and flew off with one on 20th; subsequently, a juvenile was present on 26th August and 2nd September. There were regular records from both Thorne and Hatfield Moors, with a maximum of three adults at the former on 23rd June, but it is likely that several breeding pairs were present in the general area. Recorded at Hornsea Mere from 10th May and a pair is assumed to have bred. There were an increasing number of records from the Harrogate area, with birds recorded on 63 dates at 19 sites; breeding was suspected, but there were no confirmed attempts.

On 2nd July singles at Wath Ings, Scarborough and North Cave (to 3rd), Broomhill on 7th and in the Ryedale and Cononley recording areas on 16th July. Other July records included at Southfield Res on 19th–20th, at Grass Woods on 22nd, at Pulfin & High Eske on 27th, Broomhill on 28th and recorded on four dates at Spurn, with three on 6th.

It was a very poor year in the Bradford area, with the first of only two records in Wharfedale on 5th August followed by singles in the Cononley area on 5th and 8th, a first-summer at Widdop on 7th, at Filey Dams on 14th, with another ringed the same day near Ripon during a ringing session at a sand martin colony! One came in off the sea at Filey Brigg on 18th August, one at Pulfin & High Eske on 21st, an adult and juvenile at Southfield Res on 24th–25th and singles at North Cave Wetlands and Wassand on 28th August. Sporadic records were received from Old Moor from 2nd–24th August and singles at Spurn on nine dates during August. In September singles were at Tophill Low, Farnham and Cononley Ings on 3rd with records from Southfield Res on six dates, including two on 8th. There were two at Spurn on 7th, one near Ripon on 10th, a juvenile at Jackson's Bay on 12th, five (including a juvenile) at Thorne Moors on 14th–15th, with singles at Farnham on 18th, at Thorne Moors on 19th and Spurn's last on the latter date. There were also singles at Blacktoft on two days, Flamborough on 9th, 12th and 16th, Knotford Nook on 20th, at Leeshaw Res on 21st, at Wintersett on 24th and at Old Moor on 8th–9th, 15th and 30th September. Only three records in October: at Swillington Ings on 2nd; at Blacktoft Sands on 5th; and finally one at North Cave Wetlands on 12th October.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* **A**

Amber list: scarce resident breeder and winter visitor. BBS 4/192

Singles were recorded from a large number of sites in the first-half including Fairburn, Swillington, North Cave Wetlands, Beal Carrs, Southfield Res, Pulfin & High Eske, Nosterfield, Farnham and Wintersett amongst others. Two were at Thorne Moors on 1st January and two were also at Spurn on 26th January.

Bred near Filey, Flamborough, possibly near Buckton, and two pairs in Scarborough area, although at least one of the latter was unsuccessful; at least two pairs fledged up to four young in Cleveland.

Possible breeding indicated from two sites near Sheffield, while in the Halifax area six pairs bred; with four of these pairs fledging three, two, two and two young. A pair fledged three young in the Leeds area, but there were no confirmed breeding in Bradford, although a pair was present at a site where successful breeding has taken place in the past. In the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Group area 30 sites were checked, with only 13 occupied and seven pairs successfully fledged 14 young. It is of particular concern that many of the traditional sites on grouse moors in the Dales are now no longer occupied by peregrines during the breeding season. On a more positive note the most popular birds in the county were at Malham Cove where over 28,000 people visited the RSPB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Peregrine viewpoint during the breeding season.

Two were at Blacktoft Sands on 28th August and again on 12th September, with two at Beal Carrs on 17th September. An ambitious male attempted to take guillemots off the sea off Long Nab on 28th September. In October two were at Fairburn Ings on 8th and two again at Beal Carrs on 12th, while one took two Little Auks off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 2nd November. Two were present at Cherry Cobb Sands on 1st December. Finally, one with jesses was at Farnham on 24th and 31st December.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* **A**

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor

Resident at Tophill Low and Hornsea Mere, although breeding was not proven; counts at either site never exceeded four, although significantly higher numbers were surely present. Up to two were recorded at Pulfin & High Eske between January–April and October–December, while up to three were present during the winter periods at Filey Dams; singles were also present here in May and June, with breeding a possibility. Flamborough had three singles in the first half, with three on 29th October and three at Thornwick Bay through December. North Cave Wetlands logged singles on 4th January and 5th March. Up to two wintered at Spurn at both ends of the year, with four present on 6th November. A single at the point on 23rd/24th April was an undoubted migrant.

Pinchinthorpe ponds, near Guisborough held a single in January, March and December. Regular at Coatham Marsh with maximum of six on 8th January; breeding was confirmed at this site with three adults and five chicks in July. A single was at Scaling Dam from 20th–27th October, while Cayton/Star Carrs, Wykeham Lakes and Brompton Carrs also attracted singles during the year. Unusually, one was on the rocks at Scalby Mills on 26th September.

At least two were at Old Moor and Broomhill Ings throughout the year. Lowther Lake recorded singles on 5th April and four dates between July–November, with six on 17th December. Mickletown Ings had up three until 17th April, followed by a single in October and two on 19th December. Up to three birds were at Rodley NR up to 31st May, a single on 19th August, then one from 14th October to the year's end. Swillington Ings attracted up to two until March then a single returned on 8th August, with one present from October to the end of December. Eight were recorded at Wintersett until March, with birds returning from 16th September and a maximum of five in the second winter period. A breeding resident at both Fairburn and Blacktoft Sands, although no breeding numbers were received; 13 was the maximum count from Blacktoft Sands on 17th January. Potteric Carr held birds throughout the year and a minimum of four breeding territories were identified, with young seen on 30th May. Thorne Moors recorded calling birds on eight dates during the year, with a similar picture at Pugneys, where a juvenile was seen during August. Pit-House West had regular records of up to three throughout the year, with five present on 4th April, with four at Redmires Res on 29th October. High Royd SW had three birds on 8th January and six on 5th March.

Birds were regular at Staveley NR below the bird feeders, with six on 14th November; breeding was proved when an adult was accompanied by six young in May. Birds were present at Hay-a-Park and Bellfask Quarry in the winter periods and up to three were at Cononley Ings on 29th October. Stocksbridge NR held up to five from September through to December and a single was at Malham Tarn throughout December.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* **A** 6,8,7,6,3

Amber list: rare occasional breeder; rare summer visitor and migrant.

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in the county, but proof of breeding is difficult to confirm

A juvenile was on Canal Scrape at Spurn on 21st August and remained until the 26th (CH: RJB *et al.*) Blacktoft Sands RSPB had a calling bird on 11th–12th May, with a long-staying juvenile at the same site between 14th August and 15th September.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* **A** 5,2,1,3,2

Red list and UK BAP species: rare occasional breeder, summer visitor and passage migrant

One was flushed from a field adjacent to Filey Dams on 25th August (DJS: CCT). Another migrant, which was certainly out of luck, was picked up dead at Spurn on 16th September after firstly hitting overhead power lines and then being run over by a car (AJG).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* **A**

Common to abundant resident breeder; some immigration in autumn/winter

BBS 46/192: 72% (18) increase 1994–2006, –4% (2) decrease 2005–06

Higher counts included 44 at North Cave on 12th March and 46 at Hornsea Mere in the first quarter. The Lower Aire Valley (between Lowther Lake and Skelton Lake) recorded a minimum of 50 in each month, with maxima of 101 in February and 82 in November; 48 were at Mickletown Ings on 13th August, with 51 present on 9th October. Old Moor contained good numbers, with maxima of 120 in May and November; 30 pairs hatched 98 young, while Fairburn's peak count was 108. Nosterfield NR logged 36 in autumn, while numbers at Staveley NR peaked at 41 in August.

COOT *Fulica atra* **A**

Fairly common resident breeder; some immigration in winter. BBS 16/192

The population of this Palearctic species is probably stable in line with national trends. Numbers in winter are be swollen by immigrants from northwest Europe, whilst it breeds in varying numbers on most suitable wetland sites from small ponds to large sheets of water.

Counts at the main sites were slightly down on 2005, especially in the winter months.

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hay-a-Park	500	135	121	–	–	–	–	–	555	–	695	784
Nosterfield	203	313	178	191	191	221	300	358	186	121	168	225
Old Moor	130	220	130	170	110	170	170	220	230	200	308	255
North Cave	220	205	198	–	–	–	–	–	–	239	149	202
Hornsea Mere	814	790	600	410	515	480	390	485	600	600	–	610
Tophill Low	623	308	97	71	46	54	180	202	300	539	266	305
Humber; Crabley-Paull	296	298	–	59	39	–	110	144	399	171	–	403
Winterset	242	148	150	82	51	72	57	188	478	593	691	768
Pugneys CP	239	137	108	–	–	–	–	–	204	183	174	152
Knotford Nook	372	104	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	271	211	220
Malham Tarn	–	420	–	–	–	40	–	–	–	–	–	800

Other large counts were: 202 at Mickletown Ings on 16th July; 523 at Skelton and Lowther Lake on 19th November; 175 at Potteric Carr on 10th September; 1400 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd September.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* **A** 45,32,9,5,41

Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March. There was an excellent run of records, with unusual winter parties noted in both winter periods and successful breeding at one site.

On 7th January four birds landed in a field north of Long Nab, Scarborough at 1030hrs (MF); these then moved north and were seen over Redcar at 1335 hrs and later over Hartlepool, Cleveland (SCB *et al.*).

Perhaps the same four then flew north-west over Coatham Marsh on 15th March (EML). At Spurn a single flew south on 18th March (NP *et al.*), while there was a series of records there in April: six flew south on 23rd (two at 1430 hrs, followed by four at 1610hrs) (PJA: DH *et al.*); two went south at 1315 hrs on 25th (RJB *et al.*); followed by two more south at 1205 hrs on 28th (AAH: NM *et al.*). In May, two landed in a grass field at Ravenscar at 1040 hrs on 14th and left to the west at 1225 hrs (NWA: SH: RNH *et al*). Two toured Flamborough for a couple of hours on the morning of 23rd May (JMP: TD: RBa) and the same came in off at Filey CP at 1440hrs on 23rd May, flew low over the Café and headed slowly off to the north-west (LG: CCT: HJW *et al.*).

At Potteric Carr a single followed the river Torne towards Rossington on 13th June (SMB: DC *et al*). Additional June records included two south over Scalby (MF) and Scarborough (RNH) on 17th; with three

heading NW over Withernwick at 0525hrs on the same day (BP). Presumably these three were then relocated at West Carlton on 19th June and the two adults and one immature then showed well to appreciative visitors until 27th (AFJ *et al.*). Undoubtedly the same three flew over the triangle at Spurn on 4th July, before returning north to Easington, where they had been seen earlier in the day (AJS: MFS). Another was seen at Easington on 5th August (RDH).

The year's last were eight that flew over Drewton, South Cave at 1300 hrs on 8th December and were later noted over Lincolnshire (IAA).

The most significant record came from the Humberhead Peatlands NNR, where one pair successfully fledged one chick; unfortunately a second chick failed to survive. This pair has attempted to breed since 2003, but this was the first time they had successfully raised young.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor/passage migrant. BBS 49/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 10200: GB threshold 3200
The small inland breeding population is still expanding in North, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire, continuing the trend shown for 1982–2002 of an 8% increase for birds breeding on lowland grasslands (Wilson *et al.*, 2005). Most move to the coast between August and February, although birds were noted in January at Aire Valley, Bolton Abbey, Gouthwaite Res, Hay-a-Park GP, Hellifield Flash, Linley Wood Res, Old Moor RSPB, Nosterfield NR and Winckley Hall. There are few inland records after August: one was at Wintersett on 4th September, a single near Grassington into early November and two at Hay-a-Park GP on 10th December.

Numbers on the Humber were lower than in 2005, with average monthly counts down from 752 to 446. The highest upriver count, at Paull Holme Strays, was 57 on 11th October. Breeds in small numbers on the lowland west of the Wolds and near the Humber. Two pairs attempted to breed at Spurn, but both were unsuccessful. One pair was successful at Pulfin & High Eske, two pairs nested at North Cave Wetlands, one rearing two young and a pair bred at Routh Pits. Counts inland included 40 at North Cave Wetlands on 17th March and 18 at Watton NR on 13th July. Along the coast, the winter flock of around 132 remained at Filey from the start of January through to 11th March, before decreasing to a summering flock of 44 by 15th June. In the last two months the wintering flock re-established with 90 feeding on the Country Park in November and 105 on 30th December. The commonest wader at Flamborough, up to 60 wintered. Although passage was noted at Flamborough in May and June, a strong southerly passage is usual from July to September on the coast. At Filey, 498 were logged flying south from 18th July, whilst at Flamborough, counts in July included 106 on 15th, 151 on 22nd, 123 on 23rd, 232 on 29th and 140 on 30th, with up to 70 noted in August, but 150 on 13th and 97 on 16th. There was still plenty of movement in September, the peaks being 118 on 9th and 136 on 16th. Offshore passage at Spurn consisted of 2773 flying south between 7th July and 3rd October.

Present on the coast throughout the year. Two pairs were present at Wykeham Lakes in April and May, and a pair with chicks was seen on 12th June and a pair with two young was located at High Ayton Carr on 4th July. Up to five were seen at Scaling Dam Res in June. Fifty-one were at Kettleness on 6th May and counts of up to 300 there in October/November, when up to 95 on Whitby GC. High counts in the Scarborough area included 112 in Jackson's Bay on 24th April and up to 100 birds frequented the Jackson's /Burniston Bay stretch of coastline to the year's end. Birds were noted moving southwards along the coast in small numbers from mid-July through to mid-September. Ninety flew south at Long Nab on the 12th September.

One pair reared three young at Rother Valley CP, the first breeding in the Rotherham area, two pairs at Wath Ings with one pair successful, a pair bred at Langsett Res, one pair raised three young at Wintersett, with another pair present, and one pair raised two young at Potteric Carr. Single pairs were present in the breeding season at Beal Carrs and Pugneys CP. Birds were also recorded between 9th March and 12th August in the Halifax area at Baitings, Blake Dean, Castle Carr Road, Cold Edge Dams, Crimsworth Dene, Elland GP, Fly Flats, Green Withens, Longfield Dam, Lower Gorple, Ogden, Ringstone Edge, Walshaw Dean and Whiteholme. The peak count in the VC was 11 at Old Moor.

The first returning birds reported were singles at Mossy Moor Res on 13th January and Harewood Park and Swillington Ings on 15th January and by late February groups of 15 or so were widespread, with *c.*80 near Arncliffe on 18th, and passage was noted through the Harrogate district in February and March. Peak counts included 70 at Gouthwaite Res, 50 at Ripon Racecourse, 36 at Bar Lane Quarry, 34 at Lindley Wood Res, 32 at Hay-a-Park GP, 24 at New Swillington Ings, 21 at Skipton SW and 15 at Bolton Abbey. Bred at Fairburn Ings, Grassington Moor and Grimwith, along riversides and streams in Upper Wharfedale, at Farnham GP, Gouthwaite Res and Masham Moor, although many attempts were frustrated by the high water levels after the late May rains. Elsewhere, one pair at Rodley NR and five pairs were unsuccessful at Swillington Ings.

Noted in the Nosterfield area in every month, where 82 in February, and 112 at Nicholson's Lagoon in March. Five pairs attempted at Nosterfield, two successfully, and three pairs bred at Lingham Lake.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon visitor
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 35
Breeding: remains established as a breeding bird at three East Yorkshire sites, but it was a disastrous breeding season at Blacktoft Sands. Record numbers of birds recorded in spring with over 130 present. However, only 15 pairs managed to hatch about 15 young, all of which bar one almost immediately predated by Carrion Crow. At North Cave Wetlands, first reported on 10th March, and a total of seven pairs attempted to breed. Only two young were successfully fledged, with several chicks being predated by a Kestrel and others probably being lost during poor weather. At Paull Holme Strays, first reported on 23rd March and sitting birds were noted on 25th May. On 7th July, 59 chicks were counted, with 65 chicks and four juveniles noted on 10th. An adult with four chicks was at Brough Haven from 20th July to 13th August.

On the Humber, early counts from March to June were mostly in the Paull Holme Strays area, but later in July and August birds were counted on the upper Humber at or near Blacktoft Sands. The highest count was 208 at Saltend on 17th March, with 70 on Welton foreshore on 2nd March and 103 between Pall and Cherry Cobb on 11th June. By September, most birds had left the Humber. Spurn had only six reports, three of them late records on 5th and 28th October and 4th December. It was a good year at Beacon Ponds, with one to two recorded on many dates throughout the spring and summer giving hope to prospects of breeding in the future. Inland, two were at Aughton Ings on 20th April and two were at Wheldrake Ings on 15th July.

Two flew over Coatham Marsh on 24th April.

Records included three at Silverwood Lagoons on 28th and 29th March, with two at Edderthorpe Flash on 30th. There were singles at Old Moor on the 6th and 19th April, 8th May and three on the 17th and 18th May, and a single again on 5th June. Two were at Potteric Carr on 21st April and two flew over Hatfield Moor towards Huggin Carr on 3rd May, whilst a flurry of activity on 5th saw three at Thrybergh CP, two at New Swillington Ings and one at Aukley Common. Three were again seen at Silverwood Lagoons on 17th May, with one still present on 18th. Three were seen flying over Southfield Res on 18th May and one there on 2nd June flew off east.

One was at Nosterfield NR from 14th to 16th July.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* **A** 2,1,2,1,1
Red list and UK BAP species: rare visitor; 39 records since extinction as a breeding species in 1930's
A long term decline in the British population of this summer visitor in the early part of the 20th century brought about the loss of this species as a breeding bird in Yorkshire in the 1930's. It is now an over-shooting spring migrant from the increasing population in East Anglia.

One on Huxter Well Marsh at Potteric Carr from 1815hrs until dusk on 7th May (NPW: DC: RJSc *et al.*) was a first for the reserve and the first Doncaster district record since 1844.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* **A**
Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant/summer visitor. BBS 1/192
A summer visitor from Africa, widespread across Europe, which first bred in Britain at Tring in 1938.

VC 61 Fifteen pairs were recorded, but breeding was only proven for three of these pairs. First reported on 26th March when four were at Routh Pits, with four pairs established there by early April, but only two birds were seen in May, and it unsure whether or not building work disturbed breeding. At least two pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands with the first young seen on 8th July and the last sighting being two juveniles on 6th September. Recorded at WNR from 1st April with two pairs copulating and sitting by the month-end, but no young were seen until two adults and two juveniles on 1st August, but these may have been Tophill birds. Four were noted at TLNR on 9th April and a pair settled to breed on South Marsh West, with three chicks noted on 13th July, with the last four reported on 22nd July. A pair found on an old factory site near Clough Road, Hull on 13th May was giving distraction displays on 27th and may have bred. A pair possibly bred on Queen Elizabeth Docks, Hull where seen on 13th May. A pair was at High Farm CP, Routh on 28th May. There was no evidence of breeding at Pulfin, where the peak count was seven on 7th July, but a pair was sitting at High Eske on 10th June. A pair was seen on Willerby Carr/Snuff Mill Ings on 20th and 22nd June. One was on Swinemoor on 4th May, and reports indicate a pair may have bred. Just four records came from Filey, with singles on the Dams on 12th, 14th and 17th April and one on the Brigg on 23rd August. Recorded at Hornsea Mere where two on 28th, three were seen in May and July and five on 14th August. Occasionally seen along the Humber, with seven singles

noted at Spurn between 16th April and 8th August. Singles were seen at Beacon Ponds NR on 31st July and 13th August. At Paull Holme Strays, two noted on 21 April, one on 7th and 16th May, one on 16th, two including a juvenile on 26th June, with one on 10th July.

Scarborough's coastal sites attracted a single on 13th April at Scalby Lodge Pond, at Cromer Point Pond on six dates, followed by two at Scalby Lodge on 18th May and the last record on 23rd June. Pairs were established at Scaling Dam from early April, where six adults were present by the end of the month. At least two pairs bred successfully there, with broods of three chicks being noted in June and August. A single was still present on 2nd September. A pair bred successfully at Wykeham Lakes rearing four young. A pair was also noted displaying near a suitable flash in the Cayton area in April.

The first record was a single at Silverwood Lagoon on 22nd March, followed by an arrival on a broader front on 25th March with two at Dewsbury SF, two at Wintersett, one at Wombwell Ings. Three were at Tarmac Quarry, Stainton on 26th and five there on 28th. Present at Fairburn Ings from 27th March, then in ones and twos until autumn, where the yearly maximum of eight was recorded on 8th and 17th August, and one pair attempted to breed, probably unsuccessfully. The first at Pugneys CP was on 28th March, where a pair with eggs was thought to have failed. Present at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 30th March to 14th September, with four the peak count in July. Five pairs attempted eight nests at Old Moor and one pair at Wombwell Ings. A total of six young were hatched, with a maximum count of 26 birds on 20th June. Two pairs were present at Wintersett, one pair rearing three young. At Ringstone Edge, there were three breeding attempts, the first nest being predated, and the two other nests had three and four young but it is thought that only three birds survived. At Whiteholme, there were two broods of young, five young being recorded on 12th August. The maximum count at this site was of eight birds on 22nd July, four adults and four juveniles. At Potteric Carr, at least three pairs bred, rearing ten young. Up to five birds noted at Beal Carrs, including a pair with three juveniles on 1st July that may have bred nearby. A pair attempted at Thorne Moors but was unsuccessful. Two pairs bred at Swillington Ings, rearing four and two young and one pair bred at Yeadon Airport. Eight were displaying at Gouthwaite Res on 22nd April and 12 on 27th, with a bird incubating on the mud in June; Bellflask Quarry had three breeding pairs hatching broods, a pair at Farnham GP had their nest trampled by Canada Geese and two pairs probably bred at Ingmanthorpe Lake. Ten were at Staveley NR on 15th July, including fledged juveniles. Other breeding season reports included Aldwarke SF (two adults), Anglers CP, Bolton-on-Swale GP, Cold Edge Dams (a juvenile from 9th to 11th August), Fly Flats, Walshaw Dene and Warland. Also present in the breeding season at Denaby Ings, Dinnington, Eccup Res, Ingbirchworth Res, Parkgate Rotherham (one possible pair), Pit House West Rotherham (juvenile seen), Proving Ground, Pugneys, Redlands Quarry, Redmires Res (three pairs), Rother Valley CP (up to four present but no breeding), Sherburn-in-Elmet, Silverwood Lagoon (two pairs, each with one young), Skelton Lake, Skipton SW (one pair and a juvenile) and Stocks Res, Thrybergh CP (four adults and three juveniles in July), Walton Colliery Nature Park, Warland and Wentworth Industrial Park.

After the first at Nosterfield on 25th March, seven pairs nested at Lingham quarry, three of which failed at the egg stage and four broods hatched. Three pairs were at Flasks Lake on 28th May, two birds making scrapes. An obvious passage occurred in July through Nosterfield NR with ten on 8th, 17 on 9th, 12 on 16th, 13 on 17th and seven on 20th; a peak of 23 appeared on 12th August, thereafter low single figures on several dates until the last, a juvenile, on 22nd October.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 2/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 330 winter, 300 passage
Nationally declining, breeds in small numbers both on the coast and inland, including the Yorkshire Dales National Park, where two pairs recorded at Grimwith Res. Small numbers winter on the estuaries, with spring migration of birds that breed further north usually peaking in mid to late May, and returning birds in August.

At least 16 pairs attempted to breed at Spurn, rearing a minimum of eight young. At Routh Pits breeding was proven when a juvenile was seen on 22nd June. More birds were noted on the Humber this year, with higher numbers at the start of the year (see table). A roost between Alexander and Albert Docks in Hull held 33 birds in February. A colour-ringed bird at Saltend on 1st March came from north Norfolk (DMP). Peak winter numbers at Filey were in November, when 27 were on the Brigg on 13th. At Flamborough, 23 on 29th January and 25 on 3rd February and ten on 20th December were the maxima. There were indications of movement in early March at Flamborough with 40 on 2nd, in addition to 20 on a few dates. Passage was noted from other scattered sites in May/June with the peak passage of 1023 in May on the Humber just one bird less than 2005, and 191 at Spurn in June the highest from one site. The majority are usually of the northern race *tundrae*. At Paull Holme Strays, 150 were noted on 3rd May, with the highest count of 504 on 15th May. Four flew off north from Tophill Low on 22nd. Passage was noted at Pulfin & High Eske in June, with two on 8th, three on 9th and 10th and five on

11th. Autumn passage was relatively light, with very few along the coast, and lower numbers were noted in offshore passage at Spurn, with just 61 flying south between 12th July and 16th August. The peak counts at Spurn on the Humber of 343 in August and 322 in September were higher than WeBS figures for the estuary, and during peak passage in August over 500 birds stopped over. Further up the estuary, WeBS counts did not reflect true numbers present: on 29th August 577 roosted at high tide south-east of Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull, and 354 roosted on 11th September. In late winter, up to 19 were noted at North Ferriby foreshore. Inland, one at North Cave Wetlands on 8th February was first of the year with nine by 22nd, eight throughout March and April and the last sighting in September. Small numbers (less than five) were also noted at Hornsea Mere and Watton NR.

Bred at South Gare. In winter, up to 30 fed in the Scalby Mills/Jackson's Bay area at the start of the year, roosting at Scalby Lodge Pond, with 37 noted in November. Twelve were noted at Scaling Dam in August.

An early record came from Lighthazzles where one on 8th January and birds were seen from February at Potteric Carr, Rother Valley CP, Silverwood Lagoon, Wath and Wintersett and from March at Pugneys where six on 12th, Southfield Res and Thrybergh CP. The first bird returned to Fairburn on 6th February and the last was seen on 25th September, with six on 17th August the peak count. Passage in May included six at Staveley NR and 20 at Old Moor on 7th, three at Farnham GP on 13th. 12 at Redmires Bottom Res on 29th and in June, 12 at Old Moor on 7th (including 9 *tundrae*). Despite all the passage birds at Swillington Ings, where six on 4th March, nine on 14th March and 13 on 10th April, the only breeding activity was a pair behaving territorially in May, but no young were seen. A juvenile appeared in late June, possibly from an undiscovered local nest. At Blacktoft Sands, 33 were counted on 19th May and 16 on 8th June. Other reports in May and June came from Fly Flats, Green Withens, Ringstone Edge, Warland and Whiteholme. At Wintersett, there were regular reports of up to four birds, in March, and May to September. Bred in the Sheffield area at Europa Flash at Tinsley (two pairs, with broods of four and two ringed), Fatty Boyns Pond, Parkgate (one pair and four juvs) and Silverwood Lagoon (two pairs). Also bred at Old Moor where one nest and one young hatched, Potteric Carr where three pairs reared seven young, and possibly at Redmires Res where juveniles were seen in August. One pair attempted to breed at Fairburn Ings and two juveniles seen on 17th July were not thought to be locals. A pair was present at Pugneys CP in May and June, but no evidence of breeding. There were two pairs at Grimwith Res where two chicks were seen and one at Mossy Moor Res on 30th April. A pair displayed at Gouthwaite Res in late April. In autumn, a single in August at Green Withens, two at Soil Hill and up to four at Ringstone Edge, whilst in September, Blacktoft had a peak count of 17 on 8th and Southfield Res 11 on 17th. At Wombwell, birds were noted into October with the last on 22nd and a party of seven birds flew west over Eccup Moor Road on 17th October.

Present at Nosterfield NR from 15th February to 8th October, with double figure counts between March and August and 18 on 19th and 20th August. Lingham Water had ten on 12th March, six on 18th March and four on 8th April, followed by a movement in May, with maxima of nine on 13th, 18 on 14th and 26 on 24th and 29th. There were four or five breeding attempts at Nosterfield NR with three pairs present at any one time, but only one pair hatched young.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Rare passage migrant, usually in spring: 42 previous records
A summer visitor to northern Europe, wintering in the Mediterranean, last breeding in the UK in 1956.

A first-winter bird was found south-east of Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull on 11th September (DMP); the first in the county since a male on the Humber at Spurn on 13th May 2000.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* **A** 43,22,95,33,69
Amber list: scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; rarely has bred
This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, on route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county.
Nine were at Aldbrough and one on Danby Beacon on 3rd May, with three at Danby on 4th and six at Whitgift on 5th.were at Buckton on 20th August and 24 at Aldbrough the following day. Only three remained at Aldbrough on 22nd. Three were filmed by a day visitor to Spurn, at Chalk Bank on 27th August.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* **A** 0,3,1,0,1
Vagrant: 22 previous records (23 birds)
A North American species that winters in South America, with autumn-blown migrants most likely in Yorkshire.

A juvenile was at Old Moor Wetlands from the Wath Ings hide on 11th October; photographed, it unfortunately wasn't seen on subsequent dates (KP et al.).

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* **A**

Uncommon moorland breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 31/192

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 9300: GB threshold 2500

Breeding numbers are still thought to be contracting, but the Humber is a significant international wintering site.

Wintering flocks on the Humber were above 2005 numbers, with 26260 counted on the Paull to Stone Creek section on 22nd January and a further 9350 on the Welwick section. Other large flocks in January included 2000 at North Duffield Carrs on 29th and 9000 at PHS on 30th. In February 1000 counted on Willerby Carrs on 3rd, 1890 on Swinemoor on 23rd and 300+ at North Cave Wetlands on 24th. Numbers were reduced in March, and by May/June there were very few records. Autumn passage was light at Spurn with 68 south and 128 in/off the sea between 23rd July and 30th November. Returning birds in July included 30 at Brough Haven on 7th, 45 at PHS on 17th and 50 on 26th. In August 437 counted at PHS with a small passage noted at Tophill Low. In September, 1000 were at Brough Haven on 15th and 1000 at PHS on 27th, with smaller numbers at Skipsea, Hornsea Mere and Atwick. In October, 5100 were at Catwick on 5th and 11400 at Paull and Paull Holme Strays on 11th. November counts included 300+ at North Cave Wetlands from 3rd to 5th, 4500 at Brough Airfield on 14th and 7000 at PHS on 29th, where 4000 were counted on 31st December.1700 were at Wheldrake in December.

Up to 11 were holding territory in Dimmingdale in May and June and young were seen. In the Scarborough area the larger winter congregations were all in the Carrs, with 220 at Seamer Carr on the 2nd January rising to 1500 on the 8th, 200 on Cayton Carr on the latter date and 700+ on Binnington Carr on 6th April. On 23rd April, 150 Golden Plover were seen on the Fadmoor/Gilamoor junction (but mostly of the northern race). In the South Tees area 1330 were counted in the Marske/Redcar area on 1st December.

Counts in January included 1500 at Eccup Moor Road, 1500 at Wadsworth Carr, 1000 at Pugneys CP, 765 at Thrybergh CP, 300 at Blacktoft Sands and 250 at Onesmoor. In February, 1000 were still at Pugneys, 500 at Eccup and 500 at Yeadon, 420 at Peat Pits and 300 at Beal Carrs and in March, 500 at Fairburn Ings, 470 at Staveley NR and 320 at Thrybergh CP. In April, 3000 were in the Haverah Park/Sandwith Moor area, up to 800 were at Peat Pits and 350 were at Ringstone Edge, with the peak spring passage count at Wintersett of 200, with some northern birds of the race *altifrons* noted from several sites, before birds returned to the moors. In the Barnsley area, recorded in all months except June and July. The last record of the spring was 81 at Wath on the 5th May. Birds returned early to high ground, and breeding was reported from Grassington Moor, Foxup Moor, Great Whernside, Pott Moor and Fountains Earth Moor. Breeding also reported from several moors in the south Pennines, including Burbage Moor (one pair), Flint Hill (four pairs), Hobson Moss (two singing), Houndkirk Moor (two pairs), Howden Moors (one nest found), Strines Moor, Sugworth and Ughill Moor. Breeding was also proven or strongly suspected in the Halifax area at Fly Flats – five pairs, High Brown Knoll – eight pairs, Green Withens – three pairs, and at Lighthazzles, where birds were watched displaying. The first returning birds to Old Moor were on 21st July. 3000 were at Southfield Res on 22nd September. High counts at Wombwell included 6000 in October, 7500 in November, 6500 at Wath in December. There were some high autumn and winter counts at Blacktoft Sands, including 8000 on 30th October, and six 5-figure counts in November including 16000 on 20th and 18000 on 26th. 550 were at Fairburn on 2nd November. Elsewhere, the largest flocks in November were 300 over the M62 near Thorpe on 10th, 3500 at Granby on 19th, 730 north of Garforth and 850 in fields north of Sherburn-in-Elmet also on 19th. In December, counts included 300 at Ingbirchworth, 600 at Thrybergh CP, 1000 at Pugneys CP and 3000 at Potteric Carr on 30th.

The Nosterfield/Lingham/Flasks complex had large numbers during January to March and October to December, with maxima of 1070 in January, 300 in February, 350 in March, 450 in April, 2050 in October, 1785 in November and 60 in December.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* **A**

Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 2500: GB threshold 530

A visitor from breeding grounds in the high Arctic, this globally widespread species winters on the outer Humber, with passage noted in April and May, and again in September

Recorded in much higher numbers on the Humber than in 2005, the monthly average up from 465 to 980, with a very strong passage in May of international significance and larger numbers wintering. In the HVWG area, mostly recorded from Paull Holme Strays where 620 on 15th May, 121 on 9th August, 512 on 6th September and 100 on 29th November. Elsewhere on the coast, primarily a passage visitor, with generally very few records of lingering birds in winter: there were reports of singles from Atwick, Ulrome and Barmston. The maximum count at Filey was seven and Flamborough recorded no more than two between 28th January and 13th September. Inland, two were at Pulfin & High Eske from 8th to 10th June and one at North Cave Wetlands on 13th October was a rare reserve record.

Counts in the Scarborough area did not exceed seven.

In the Wath area, there were only six records: three were noted in with the Golden Plover flock on the 24th January, one on Old Moor on the 21st April and a single bird there on the 1st, 2nd and 4th May. Two were at Southfield Res on 24th January and singles were seen over Pugneys CP on 25th January and 11th February. One was seen at Swillington Ings from at least 4th February to 4th March and it or another was seen on 16th, 17th, 19th and 20th April, with further records there on 4th, 16th and 17th, 18th and Astley Lake on 28th May. Eight records of single birds were noted at Blacktoft Sands, between 2nd April and 1st November. In the Halifax area, one was at Whiteholme on 14th April, two at Blackstone Edge on 19th April, one at Ringstone Edge on 21st June and one at Whiteholme on 8th August. One was at Thorne Moors on 16th May. Southfield Res hosted singles on 15th August and 2nd September, and one bird was recorded with the returning Golden Plovers on the 8th and 9th September at Broomhill Flash. At Fairburn Ings a single bird flew east on the morning of 9th September, and two flew over Swillington Ings on 10th. One was at Bellflask Quarry on 18th September and a late bird was at Swillington Ings on 29th November. Nosterfield NR had one in summer plumage on 1st and 2nd May and another on 17th May.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident; common passage migrant/winter visitor

BBS 118/192: 57% (15) increase 1994–2006, 1% (1) increase 2005–06

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 20000

UK residents are joined in winter by migrants from Scandinavia and northern Europe. The local decline shown in 2005 was halted this year.

Much larger numbers wintered on the Humber in both winter periods than in 2005. In January 380 were on Swinemoor on 8th, and 700 at the latter site on 23rd and 2300 at Saltend on 30th. Numbers increased in February, with 3400 at Saltend on 8th and 890 at Swinemoor on 23rd. Further north, 380 flew over Filey Dams on 28th January and 630 were west of there on 18th March. At Flamborough 250 on 24th January involved a roving flock and movement in March generated 109 on 11th, 370 on 22nd and 100 on 25th. Spring passage at Spurn totalled 1803 flying south between 11th January and 26th June and 560 flew out east on 19th March. Other early winter counts included 375 at Pulfin & High Eske on 7th January and 400 there on 11th March. At least 40 pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands raising many young between them, with the first young seen on 24th April. The summering population at Flamborough suggested that three pairs attempted to breed. Other breeding season reports came from North Bransholme Fishing Ponds (one pair, disturbed), Skidby (3), Swinemoor (5), Tophill Low (one pair with three chicks at SME), Watton NR (1). Almost absent during the breeding season from the Humber, post-breeding birds returned from June, with 70 at WNR on 12th and 52 birds at Brough Haven on 16th, with more from July and continental immigrants swelling numbers from October, but significant numbers were only present in December. Autumn coastal passage was comparatively poor: eight came in-off at Flamborough on 11th August; the largest counts for birds coming in/off the sea at Spurn were 62 on 11th October and 41 on 29th November and at Filey, 60 came in off the sea on 11th October. Counts included 450 at Pulfin & High Eske on 1st October and in November, 200 at Kelk Lake on 11th, 480 at Storkhill and 350 on Swinemoor on 24th, and in December, 5000 at Swinemoor on 31st.

Breeding was recorded in the Scarborough area at Harwood Dale Lake (three pairs), High Ayton (two pairs), Wykeham Nursery (ten pairs), Sawdon (one pair) and Scalby (four pairs). Also two pairs bred at CSL laboratories at Sand Hutton. Counts at Scaling Dam reflect the Humber pattern. In the Scarborough area there were several counts of reasonable sized flocks early in the year – 900 were at Seamer Carr on the 2nd and 380 at Flixton Carr on the 16th January and 400 at Wykeham Lakes on 5th February. In March, 1500 were at Cayton Carr on the 11th, 300 at Sherburn Ings and 150 at Wykeham Abbey fields on 12th and 300 at Fayre Meadow, Willerby on the 19th. The largest count later in the year near Scarborough was 530 at Willerby Carr on the 15th September. At Muston Grange, 169 were present on 31st December.

Flocks in the early winter included 3000 at Blacktoft Sands, 2000 at Gouthwaite Res, 1000 at Yeadon Airport/Yeadon Tarn, 650 at Rother Valley CP and Eccup Res/Moor Road, 600 at Grimwith, 420 at Thrybergh CP, 350 at Beal Carrs and 300 at Swillington Ings. At Pugneys CP, only 200–300 were seen in January to March, continuing a steady decline since the early 1980's when 2000 was the norm. By late March pairs were well established on the limestone pastures of Upper Wharfedale but breeding numbers are noticeably declining in the Hebden/Grassington Moor area and in Upper Littondale, and breeding success this year will not have been helped by the wet weather in May. Bred at a number of lowland and upland sites with larger numbers breeding at Old Moor (45 pairs and 28 broods noted), Wintersett (14 pairs), Southfield Res (11 pairs) and Potteric Carr and Pugneys CP (six pairs each). Thirty pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, a slight decrease on previous years, 15

pairs at Swillington Ings, 11 around Eccup Res and five pairs bred at Rodley NR for the first time. Later in the year, flocks included 375 at Beal Carrs and 748 at Potteric Carr in August; in September, 2000 at Old Moor on 18th, 900 at Staveley, 700 at Swillington Ings, 650+ at Southfield Res, *c.*200 at Loscar Common and 350 at Wintersett; in October, 1000 at Swillington Ings, 350 at Fairburn Ings, 100 at Anglers CP; in November; 7500 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th, 300 at Thorne Moors; in December, 4800 at Blacktoft on 12th, 2000 at Potteric Carr, 800 at Broomhill, 500 in the Yeadon area, 450 at Rother Valley CP, 300 at Thrybergh CP, 300 in the Eccup area and 100+ at Redmires Res.

Nosterfield NR had 50 breeding pairs, 30% of which lost their eggs through rising water levels; most relaid and at least 50% of the resulting young fledged. The total number of birds in the Nosterfield/Lingham/Flasks area was 6400 on 4th February, 4311 on 26th August and 5063 on 17th September. On 20th August, 3978 were counted as they flew south in groups.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4500: GB threshold 2800
The Humber was the second most important UK wintering site for this species in the first winter period, and averages in fourth position overall. Birds are almost exclusively of the race *islandica* that breed in northern Greenland and high Arctic Canada. The population is thought to be stable.

Spring and late summer passage of birds on the Humber was again high this year, with all but a single bird in August counted at Spurn. Peak counts at Spurn were June – 23,000, August – 52,000, September – 50,000, October – 35,000, and December – 25,000. Birds noted on WeBS counts up the Humber as far as Paull where the maximum count was 500 on 6th September. A flock of 46 wintered in the first quarter around Filey Brigg and CP before declining to 12 by 17th April, and 81 flew south there on 24th January. Southerly passage commenced at Filey on 9th July, the best counts being 58 south and 32 on the Brigg on 26th July and 31 south and eight on the Brigg on 31st July. Odd singles were all that could be located at Flamborough until up to 30 headed south in July. Passage was light and 85 on 18th was the August peak, then recorded infrequently in September with a high of 34 on 21st and up to 25 were seen in October. A small passage was also noted at Atwick in July/August. At Spurn, 1280 flew south and 105 came in/off the sea between 9th July and 30th November. Inland, singles were recorded at North Cave Wetlands on a number of dates, including 7th March, 22nd April, 3rd, 6th and 18th August, 26th and 27th September and 24th and 27th December and one was on Swinemoor on 31st December.

Only noted in very small numbers in the Scarborough area in winter and on passage, 15 north with Little Auk on 2nd November the highest count.

Singles unless stated were recorded in January at Thrybergh CP on 24th, Southfield Res and Swillington Ings on 26th, 11 birds at Ardsley Res on 27th; in February at Old Moor on 4th, 5th and 6th, Swillington Ings from 7th to 19th and Edderthorpe on the 9th and 12th; in April, 11 east over Swillington Ings on 9th, at Southfield Res on 16th and Pugneys (Calder wetlands) from 18th to 20th; in May at Pugneys on 8th and 9th, Redmires Res on 27th and Rodley NR on 28th (a new bird for the reserve). Return passage included singles unless stated in July at Ringstone Edge on 9th and Gouthwaite Res on 22nd, in August at Potteric Carr and Southfield Res on 3rd, Swillington Ings on 10th, Whiteholme on 11th, five at Old Moor on the 26th and one on the 28th; in September at Ringstone Edge on 13th, Wombwell Ings on 14th and Bellflask Quarry on 30th and 1st October, Old Moor on the 10th and 15th and Thrybergh CP on 15th October, two at Fly Flats on 29th October and one on 24th December when one also at Southfield Res, Old Moor on 7th, at Rother Valley CP from 26th to 31st, at Wintersett on 26th and at Fairburn on 30th. Birds were noted on fourteen occasions at Old Moor Wetlands including the above noted, and only six records came from Blacktoft Sands RSPB, including two west on 24th January, six west on 20th March, two on 8th June and singles on 13th August, 10th November and 24th December.

The Lingham/Flasks complex had three on 4th February and singles on 12th, 18th, 19th and 25th February, 5th and 18th March, 15th and 23rd April and 18th November.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* **A**
Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 210 winter, 300 passage
Breeds on the high Arctic tundra from Canada east to Siberia, and Palaearctic birds winter south to Africa. Inland passage this year was mostly confined to May.

The premier site for this species is on the beaches of the southern part of Spurn Point, but wintering numbers were low. In the HVWG area, except for three at PHS on 25th May, all records came from the coast between Atwick and Barmston, where noted January–March and October–December, with up to 36 recorded. At Filey, 100 were counted on the Brigg on 6th January and 115 on 9th February and 47 still present on 10th April. On the beach at Primrose Valley, 120 were counted on 25th February. Strong northerly winds at the end of May induced an unprecedented northerly movement at Filey Brigg, with 158 on 30th May, 17 next day and eight north on 1st June. In late July, passage was recorded at Filey, with 91 south on 26th. Undisturbed stretches of the beach at Reighton harboured 67 on 9th November and a similar figure sat out the high tide on the Brigg on 26th December. At Flamborough, just singles were recorded in January and February, with some passage in March when a peak of 11 on 22nd. Two on 9th April and one on 20th May were par for the course, but autumn passage was dire, with only nine recorded on three dates in July, eight on three dates in August, then ten on 9th and one on 26th September. Up to eight were at Flamborough in November and wintering numbers had increased to 16 by 23rd December. Offshore passage at Spurn in the autumn was good, with 908 south and 16 in/off the sea between 21st July and 30th October. Passage peaked during late July and gave counts of 251 on 26th and 89 on 27th. Inland, only recorded at North Cave Wetlands, where singles present on 1st–2nd May and 7th July.

In the Scarborough area, there were noticeably fewer around in the winter months compared to recent years, with up to six in the bays in January, 36 in South Bay on the 5th March, with birds lingering until the 29th March when 26 were noted, but no coastal birds at all were seen in the later winter period! Inland, single spring passage bird was seen at Wykeham Lakes on the 12th May.

There were no records from Blacktoft Sands. In May, singles, often summer-plumaged birds, were on the Park Lake shallows, Wintersett on 1st and 17th, at Southfield Res on 2nd and 11th with three on 13th, one at Potteric Carr on 8th and three on 22nd, at Swillington Ings on 13th, Eccup Res on 16th, Fairburn Ings on 16th where two on Main Bay islands on 20th, two at Whiteholme on 17th, three at Redmires Res and five at Rother Valley CP on 20th and two at Pugneys CP on 20th, 21st and 26th and one on 27th. At Old Moor Wetlands, it was regarded as a poor year with singles in May on 17th, 19th and 24th, three on 14th and 19th and four on 20th. Another summer-plumaged bird was briefly at Swillington Ings on 3rd June. The only autumn records were all in August: three at Swillington Ings on 2nd and another three on 14th, singles at Ringstone Edge and Whiteholme on 3rd, Southfield Res on 22nd and at Redmires Res on 31st.

Lingham Water had nine on 13th May, one from 14th to 17th May, four on 20th May and two on 24th and 28th May. One was at Nosterfield NR on 28th September.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant, scarce in spring
Nearest populations are in Norway, followed by arctic Russia. Winters in southern Europe and Africa, passing through the county on passage.

In spring, one was recorded at North Cave Wetlands on 22nd May, two were at Spurn on 15th June and three were at BPNR on 18th June. Return passage started when seawatchers at Flamborough Head identified two on 31st July and one was on Old Fall Flash on 18th August. In September, singles were at BPNR from 2nd to 10th, Paull Holme Strays on 6th and 20th, Filey Dams from 6th to 8th and another from 15th to 23rd, at Spurn from 17th to 19th, Hornsea Mere on 24th and South Landing beach, Flamborough from 26th to 29th. Also in September, two were at North Cave Wetlands on 5th to 7th with one from 13th to 18th. In October, one was present at PHS from 1st to 14th, two at Brough Haven on 18th, one at Hornsea Mere on 25th and one at Tophill Low from 27th to 31st.

One was at Pugneys CP on 20th and 21st May. Recorded on 20 dates at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, with singles in spring on 1st and 6th June, then in autumn from 8th September to 31st October, the highest count being seven on 28th September. Also in September, singles were seen at Southfield Res on 14th and 17th, at Silverwood Lagoon on 17th and 22nd, at Rother Valley CP on 17th and 26th, seven at Thorne Moors on 19th and one at Fairburn Ings on 24th. In October, one was at RVCP on 1st and single juveniles were at Swillington Ings on 2nd and 21st to 25th, with three reported there on 24th. At Old Moor, three from 17th to 19th September were followed by three on the 18th and 19th and one from 28th to 30th, and a single was on Wath Ings in October on 1st, 2nd, 18th and 19th.

One was at Lingham Water on 4th June and one to four on a few dates in late September, with one on 3rd October. Small numbers passed through Nosterfield NR between 21st September and 8th October, with maxima of four on 21st and 23rd September.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* **A** 9,7,33,14,6
Amber list: scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 321 previous records (348 birds)
This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations in the county.

In spring, singles were recorded on the Mere and Wader Scrape at Old Moor on the evening of 11th May (DMW; JHe *et al.*), at Swillington Ings briefly mid-afternoon and again in late evening on 13th May (PRM), at Beacon Ponds NR on 20th May that later flew south (TMc *et al.*), and one was feeding in short grass at the edge of Scalby Lodge Pond on the evening on 23rd May (NWA: MF). One was at Potteric Carr on 3rd June (SMB). In the latter half, a juvenile at North Cave Wetlands on 20th to 25th August (GAD *et al.)* was the first juvenile and autumn record for the site and one was at Blacktoft Sands on 18th September.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* **A** 1,1,0,0,2

Rare migrant: 23 previous records

This Nearctic wader breeds in northern Canada and migrates along the eastern U.S. seaboard to winter in South America. Had been an annual visitor in recent years, but last seen in 2003.

A juvenile was with ten Dunlins at Nosterfield NR on 12th October (MB: RTP: SPW). Filey's second-ever White-rumped Sandpiper was discovered at the Dams on 18th October (A & RB *et al.*); also a juvenile, it remained until dusk, but departed overnight.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* **A** 7,12,4,11,10

Scarce migrant; 146 previous records (156 birds)

This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county.

An adult feeding alongside a Wood Sandpiper was seen at Filey Dams at the far end of the Main Pool on 21st August (CCT *et al.*). One was present at Fairburn Ings between 30th August and 10th September, favouring Spoonbill Flash and one was at Cononley Ings, Skipton on 9th September (IRC *et al.*). There was a series of records from Blacktoft Sands in September, where one was seen on 8th, two on 9th, the three on 10th and 11th, one remaining to 12th (MJP *et al.*). Two were on nearby Whitton Sands on 16th September (DW) with one still present on 23rd. A juvenile at Paull Holme Strays on 18th September remained to 20th (RL *et al.*): a new site record. On 1st October, one flew south past Beacon Ponds and was later seen at Spurn (JHe: AAH *et al.*).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* **A**

Uncommon passage migrant; scarce in spring

A long-distance migrant from arctic Siberia, occurs in varying numbers each year on migration to and from south of the Mediterranean. Passage this year was very light.

One was at Paull Holme Strays on 16th and 19th May, followed by one at BPNR on 26th May. A single adult at Chalk Bank on 12th June was the only spring record from Spurn. The next was at BPNR, where one to three were seen from 11th to 29th July and there were then regular sightings from late August to the end of September with up to four birds during the high tide period. One was at PHS on 15th July, where two on 26th to 30th, two on 14th and one on 23rd August, two on 1st, 12 on 5th, 15 on 6th, eight on 7th and 8th, five on 8th, 31 on the foreshore on 11th and three on 11th. Autumn passage was also well below par elsewhere. A party of six flew south over the sea at Flamborough Head on 23rd July (the first record since 2002). The first returning bird at Spurn was on 23rd July, followed by two on 28th. One to three were logged on nine dates in August, but seen almost daily in September with a high count of ten on 17th. Just two juveniles were seen at Filey on 1st September: one at the Dams, and one on the Brigg end. Inland, one at North Cave Wetlands on 15th August was only reserve report of the year. In October, one to four were recorded at Spurn on five dates with the last on 16th and one was at Paull Holme Strays on 1st, but breaking the mould was one inland that stayed on the drained D Res at Tophill Low from 18th to 20th.

There was just one record from the Scarborough area, of two at Scalby Lodge Pond on the 10th May.

Recorded at Blacktoft Sands from 31st July to 11th October, with seven double-figure counts, the peak being 17 on 7th September. There were two records from Fairburn Ings: one juvenile on 20th August and one on Spoonbill Flash on 23rd and 24th September. Four were at Bellflask Quarry on 29th August. In the Old Moor area: two on 30th August, and in September, two from 4th to 6th, six on the 7th, one on the 8th and 10th two on the 11th, seven on 12th, five on 13th, five on the14th and 15th, four on the16th, three on the 19th and four on 20th and 21st. Three were at Potteric Carr on 11th September and one on 24th and one at Swillington Ings briefly, before flying off with a Golden Plover, on 17th September.

Two were at Lingham Water from 29th May to 2nd June. Nosterfield NR had two on 3rd and 4th June and 16th August, three on 14th and 15th September, then one or two on several dates to the last on 12th October.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* **A**

Amber list: uncommon and declining passage migrant and winter visitor to rocky coasts

Breeds inland in Scandinavian tundra or further north on Arctic coastlines from eastern Canada to Siberia, wintering on rocky coasts. Wintering numbers have been declining since the late 1980's, but the counts on the Yorkshire coast remain the highest south of Northumberland.

At Filey, 31 were on the Brigg on 4th January and the year's best of 50 on 20th January. Numbers gradually waned to 29 on 1st April and then only single figures after 17th. A single on 13th May constituted the last of spring. Birds normally start to trickle back to the coast from mid-August onwards, but five on the Brigg on 14th July were the first back. Fourteen roosted on Filey Brigg on 10th October; 24 were present by 20th October and numbers reached 42 on 20th November. At Flamborough, the wintering population was near the 20 mark and one on 14th and four on 22nd were all that were left by April. One was at Flamborough on 12th August and three on 27th, whilst September had eight singles, plus eight on 29th, then sporadic in October with a peak of 11 on 23rd. Up to 18 were present at Flamborough in the final two months. Singles were recorded at BPNR on 16th August, at Spurn, birds on 27th September, 1st, 8th, 9th and 25th November and Sammy's Point on 12th November.

A winter roost on the Scars off Redcar in December peaked at 34 on 23rd. The maximum WeBS count for South Gare was only three, in April. The high tide roost at Scarborough harbour gives a regular indication of the numbers wintering along the coastline. Forty-one were present on the 13th January, 40 on the 5th and 17th February and the peak was 51 on the 27th February. Numbers had dropped to 16 by the 19th March and the last of the spring was a single north past Long Nab on the 1st May. The first late winter record from Scarborough was not until 1st November when nine were recorded, but 40 were in the roost on the 12th November, the highest count of the late winter period.

One was found at Soil Hill late on 12th November (BS), and showed well next day in front of an admiring crowd. Only the fifth record for Calderdale and the first since 1987.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder on moors; common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 1/192

WeBS Status – Int. threshold 13300: GB threshold 5600 winter, 2000 passage

Numbers both on the Humber estuary and inland on passage were lower than usual this year.

Present on the Humber throughout the year but no count reached the international threshold. With the exceptions of September and October, overall numbers well down on last year. Noted in passage at Flamborough in July with 53 on 8th, 209 on 22nd, 60 on 30th and 53 on 31st, and smaller numbers in September including with 49 on 9th and 48 on 17th. Offshore passage at Spurn in the autumn was reasonable: a total of 2228 flew south and 113 came in/off the sea between 9th July and 30th November. Small n umbers were seen inland, including 16 on Swinemoor on 7th February, 15 at NCW on 15th March, 29 at PHENR on 18th March, 13 at TLNR on 22nd July and 14 at Hornsea Mere on 15th September.

Most numerous on the upper Humber at Blacktoft Sands from July to October, 500 on 7th October being the highest count. In the Old Moor area, recorded in all months, with the highest count of the year 32 on the 25th February. At the end of the year, about a dozen birds appeared to be wintering. At Wintersett, after one on 4th February, spring passage was typically rather light, with one to three birds seen fairly regularly from March to May with a peak of five on May 3rd. Return passage was noted from 18th July with one to two birds seen fairly regularly to September and from mid-October to the year-end. The pattern was similar at both Potteric Carr, with a peak of nine on 14th May, and Southfield Res, where passage peaked in May when 22 were seen on 29th. Seen at Swillington Ings from February to November, with a total of 425 birds passing through in May, the largest single party being 44 birds on 13th, with several other groups of 20 to 32. At Fairburn Ings, seen in every month, usually in ones and twos, more frequent in autumn. The highest counts were unusually low with seven on 20th May and six on 2nd December. There were 61 records from the Halifax area between 9th March and 6th November, with the majority seen at Ringstone Edge Res and Whiteholme. Others were seen at Eccup Res, Gouthwaite Res (29 on 29th May) and Rodley NR. Singing birds were reported from Fly Flatts and High Brown Knoll. A breeding plumage adult was seen on Great Whernside on 3rd May and a pair was displaying at Mossy Moor on 30th April, where there were four birds on 22nd July. Three were at Grimwith on 10th May, with a restless flock of 19 there on 14th.

Nosterfield NR had small varying numbers from 2nd January through to 9th December on many dates, usually in low, single figures, but the peak count was only 22 in mid-September. More passed through Lingham Water in spring, with maxima of 43 on 18th March, 48 on 13th May, 67 on 28th May and 54 on 29th May. The autumn peak was 21 on 22nd September.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus* **A** 1,1,0,0,1

Rare migrant; 15 previous records (16 birds)

The European race breeds in boreal forest bogs of north Norway, Sweden and Finland and Arctic Russia, migrating SE to winter in the Persian Gulf, W India and Sri Lanka, and small numbers in E Africa. It is a late spring migrant to the UK with dispersing juveniles from July.

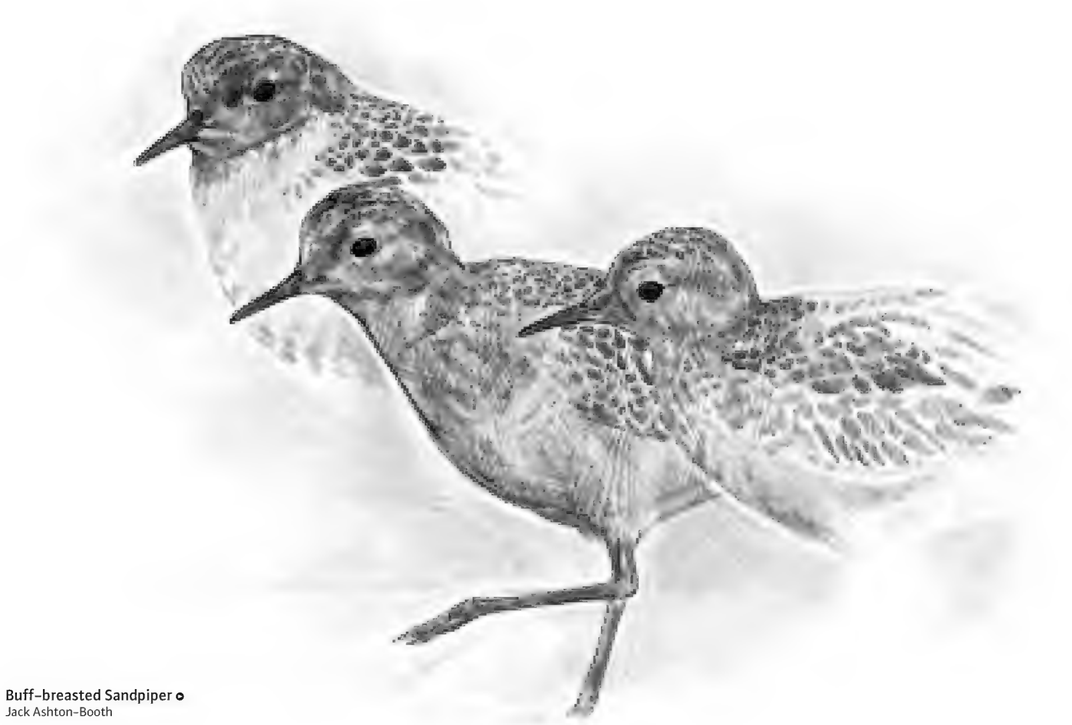
An adult in breeding plumage was present on the Humber at Spurn from 13th to 15th May (LJD: TMc *et al.*). It was usually seen as the tide was rising, feeding with the Dunlins and surprisingly represented the first site record.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* **A** 1,1,1,3,3

Rare migrant; 21 previous records (19 birds)

Breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada, wintering in South America. A scarce visitor to the UK.

One found at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 13th October, with two on 14th and amazingly three together on 15th (MJP *et al.*).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper ●
Jack Ashton-Booth

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant & scarce winter visitor; has occasionally bred

England supports a very small population and most records relate to passage birds from Fennoscandanavia and Russia that winter in Africa, although over-wintering has been increasingly noted in the county. Numbers on the Humber peaked in August when 49 were counted, 46 of which were at Blacktoft, and in October, when the total estuary count was 58.

At Filey, only recorded from 13th August to 19th September, with four the peak count. At Flamborough recorded between 13th May and 2nd November, with 27 on 18th August the highest count. Small numbers were seen in the Spurn area, including eight at BPNR on 8th September and ten at Easington Long Bank LB from 11th October to 15th November. Eleven were at PHS on 19th September. Inland at North Cave Wetlands, recorded from 2nd January, with nine on 18th August and in September a small flock of between four and 11 seen from 17th until 2nd October decreasing down to three on 28th. The peak count at Tophill Low was 12 on 13th September. Five were at Brough airfield on 25th July, one at Hornsea Mere on 10th August; two were on Welton

foreshore on 24th September, two at Pulfin & High Eske on 13th October and a single on Swinemoor on 31st December.

Recorded at Scalby Lodge Pond on 4th May and 6th July.

Noted in almost every month at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, in single figures from January to April and in June, but numbers increased in July with 35 noted on 19th, then 70 on 25th August, 96 on 26th October and 38 on 13th November. Four were noted at Wath Ings on 24th January with the highest count of the year 11 on 17th September and the last of the year one on 4th October. Similarly, Wombwell Ings had one on 6th February, then peak counts of eight in late August and the last on October 22nd. At Wintersett it is a scarce passage visitor, with most records in the autumn. The first was a moulting adult male on 2nd July, seven circled over on 16th August followed by three scattered singles before six on 24th and three on 27th September. Most sightings from the Lower Aire Valley came between March and November, particularly from Swillington Ings, where most were seen in autumn, but six was the highest number seen. Fifteen were recorded at Southfield Res between 5th April and 27th September. One was at Fairburn Ings between 14th and 17th April, with ones and twos later in the year from early July to 16th October, with eight on 6th October the peak. Recorded at Potteric Carr from 13th August to 30th September, with six the peak count. Staveley NR had five on 28th August, with ten on 15th September, Bellflask Quarry had nine on 10th September and Farnham GP had single birds on 17th and 25th August and 17th September. Recorded at Rother Valley CP from January to September, the peak count being 11 on 16th September.

The only spring record at Nosterfield NR was on 27th April, followed by birds from June to October, with passage more evident from September, with maxima of 18 on 16th, 32 on 22nd, then 35 on 1st October, 23 on 8th and 14 on 14th. Seven were at Lingham Water on 8th October.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* **A**

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from northern Fennoscandia east to Siberia and winters from maritime Western Europe south to Africa.

Two were on Beacon Lagoons from 15th to 22nd January. At Filey spring passage birds were noted on 8th and 9th March, with two on 11th and 23rd and one on 28th. One was at Flamborough on 16th April. At Spurn, up to three were seen throughout January to March, and then singles to the last record of the spring at the Point on 1st May. Inland, in February, singles were at Tophill Low on 3rd and 20th, at North Cave Wetlands on 14th and 19th February and at Atwick on 26th. The first of the autumn was at Flamborough on 15th September, with the only other record there on 8th November. At Spurn the first was on 24th September and birds were regularly recorded at Beacon Ponds NR from the 25th September to the end of the year with peak counts of three on 21st October and four on 28th December. One to three were seen at Spurn in October including one which flew south over Wire Dump with a flock of Goldfinches on 5th and singles in November and December. At Filey noted on 14th October where just two further records. Elsewhere, two were at Atwick on 30th September with singles returning to Tophill Low in October on 7th and 8th, two were at Atwick on 12th and Barmston on 15th and in November one was at North Cave on 6th, one at Kelk on 12th, a remarkable seven on cliff-top floods at Atwick on 13th with one there on 21st and finally one at Tophill Low on 24th December.

One was at Scalby Lodge Pond on the 3rd January. Immigration was noted from 13th October at Cromer Point Pond near Scarborough, where three were noted in November. One was flushed at Howkeld Mill in Ryedale on 26th November.

The year started with singles in January at Ringstone Edge Res on 1st and 21st, two at Blackburn Meadows on 2nd, four at Waverley Opencast on 7th (eight on 20th February), six at Wintersett on 8th, one at Pugneys on 9th, three at Beal Carrs on 20th, one at Blacktoft Sands on 26th, three at Silverwood Lagoon on 29th and up to ten birds were at a small boggy area at Austhorpe that month. One was at Elland GP on 13th February and there were three further singles at Pugneys to 2nd April. In the Harrogate area, single birds were flushed near Siddinghall, Great Ouseburn, Gallows Hill Pond – Knaresborough, Staveley NR and Little Studley Meadows on a few dates between 3rd January and 30th March. At Farnham GP, four were on the islands on 27th February, with three on 19th March. In the Old Moor area, sightings were made of single birds from January to 2nd April and one was at Bolton Ings on 3rd April, although late records were at Walshaw Dean on 7th, Silverwood Lagoon on 14th, Blackburn Meadows on 22nd and Burbage Moor on 30th. There were four records from Fairburn Ings, all of single birds, in February, March, and April. In autumn, the first was on Thorne Moors on 18th September, then noted at Old Moor from 6th October with birds on 14th and 27th, and at Austhorpe from 8th. Singles were recorded at Wintersett on five dates from 7th October, with three on 28th October and two on 3rd December. One was at Potteric Carr on 29th October and 4th and 9th November. Also in November, birds were seen at Broomhill on 3rd and 5th (two), 6th, 14th (three) 18th and 24th, at Blacktoft regularly for a month from 9th, at

Blackstone Edge on 12th with another or the same bird here on 1st December, at Pugneys from 16th, with two on 2nd December, and two were at Beal Carrs on 19th November. At the year-end, single birds were at Farnham GP on 1st October, two birds at Rodley NR on 11th October and one at Yeadon Tarn on 14th and 15th November, and singles at Staveley NR on 19th December and Bellflask Quarry throughout December. One was at Soil Hill on 19th December and six on 31st at Waverley Opencast. Up to five were flushed at Swillington Ings at both ends of the year and two birds were at Skelton Marsh in March and November.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeding resident; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 33/192
Although nominate *gallinago* breed in Yorkshire, numbers appear to be declining due to drainage of lowland habitat and changes to upland environments. Numbers are swelled in winter as migrants from the boreal and subarctic zone move south.

Inland, noted at North Cave Wetlands in every month of the year except June with a peak of *c*75 in late October. The peak count at Tophill Low was 35 on 5th February, but no breeding was noted. The only site in the Hull valley where drumming was noted was at Swinemoor (two birds). At Pulfin & High Eske, where noted as less common generally than in the past, 25 were counted on 25th March and 39 on 23rd September. At Brough Airfield, three drumming birds were recorded and a passage flock of 40 were counted on 15th October. On the coast, small numbers wintered at Filey, with peak counts at the Dams of 24 on 30th September, 31 on 13th October and 38 on 15th November. At Flamborough, mostly noted on passage: three on 29th July were initial movers in autumn and August hosted 18 on six dates, plus 18 on 22nd and 17 on 20th. At Spurn, there were relatively low numbers, with only one double figure early winter/spring count of 22 on 21st March. At Atwick, the peak count was 12 on 30th September. The first returning birds were seen at Spurn on 10th July, then seen almost daily but only five double-figure counts were made by the year end, with a maximum of 24 on 6th September. Visible migration included 64 flying south and 73 coming in/off the sea between 26th July and 30th November.

No breeding records received in the Scarborough area, where peak counts during cold spells in March were of 50 on the 4th and 27 on the 14th in the Scalby Lodge Pond area and 14 at Star Carr on the 16th and the highest autumn count was ten at Star Carr on the 15th September.

Bred at Old Moor Wetlands where 14 drumming birds were recorded in May and at Beal Carrs (one), Cold Edge Dams (two), Crimsworth Dene (one), Fly Flatts (one), Green Withens (one), Scammonden (one), Stocksbridge (one), Strines Moor (two), Thorne Moors (one) and Whitwell Moor (one). In Upper Wharfedale, breeding season reports came from Grassington Moor/Mossy Moor Res, Threshfield Moor and above Foxup. Three drumming males were recorded at Fairburn Ings.

Peak counts at Fairburn included 55 on 7th January, 100 on 18th March, 32 on 22nd August and 38 on 11th December. Counts at Swillington Ings included 30 in the early winter period, with 32 on 16th September and 76 in several small parties, the largest of which was 21, on 5th October. One to seven recorded in every month at Potteric Carr except June, with 14 the peak count in March. At Wintersett it is a regular winter and passage visitor, with the peak winter count 38 on 8th January; Ringstone Edge Res had a peak count of 40 on 21st February, 27 were counted at Southfield Res on 5th March, the maximum at Old Moor Wetlands was 35 on the 13th March and 56 were at Thrybergh Banks on 19th March. Eighteen were at Brampton Common on 9th April. Later in the year, recorded in good numbers at Blacktoft Sands, particularly from mid-September (140 on 14th) to October (154 on 25th). At Wintersett, counts included 29 on 29th September, 38 on 12th October and 34 on 3rd December. At Beal Carrs, peak counts were of 25 in August, October and November, and at Pugneys, 47 were counted on 15th October. A party of 37 over Swillington Ings on 30th October was the last sign of movement. In the south in November, 22 were at Waverley Opencast on 9th and 26 at Redmires Middle Res on 26th. In the Harrogate area, Staveley NR had maximum counts of 31 on 3rd March and 25 on 21st August; Farnham GP 60 on 27th February and up to 18 present in September and October and 13 at Aldwark on 4th March.

Present in all months at Nosterfield NR, with a spring peak of 36 on 2nd April and in autumn, 28 on 29th July. Lingham Water and Flasks Lake had smaller numbers peaking at ten on 2nd April and 14 on 8th October.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus* **A** 0,0,2,1,1
Vagrant: 10 previous records
Breeds in north-east Siberia and north-west Alaska and winters in southern USA and Central America.

A summer-plumaged adult was seen and photographed at Lingham Water and Flasks Lake (Nosterfield NR) on 1st May (AMH *et al.*); this is only the second accepted spring record for Yorkshire, with the other at Staveley on 23rd May 1976.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 3/192
The main breeding areas are Fennoscandia and Russia, and immigrants from these areas are noted on the Yorkshire coast and winter in woodlands. Small numbers breed.

Roding reports received from Houghton Woods, South Cliffe and Allerthorpe Common. Birds in the first winter period were seen at Tophill Low (up to three), Paull Holme Strays and Hornsea Mere. At Filey, Top Scrub sheltered one from 23rd to 29th March; one flew over the Dams on 31st March and finally one came in off on 2nd April. The last of the spring was at Spurn on 5th April and the first of the autumn were six at Flamborough Head on 2nd October. One was at Tophill Low on 8th October. Recorded at Filey from 11th October where one on 14th, three on 15th and one on 25th coincided with an immigration of thrushes, while three appeared on 3rd November, with the last on 18th. The first at Spurn came in/off the sea on 13th October, followed by six the next day, then two to three on just four more dates to the month end. A small influx occurred at Spurn in early November: 15 on 2nd; 11 on 8th; nine on 9th; and seven on 11th. Singles were at Atwick on 3rd, Hull on 9th, Foston and Hornsea Mere on 12th, North Frodingham on 16th and Flamborough on 19th November, with two late birds on 10th and one on 27th December.

In winter, birds were noted at South Gare in January and one was found dead at Redcar on 31st. Cold weather in January and February resulted in six scattered records at Filey. Spring migrants included singles in March at Scalby Beck, Scalby Nabs and at Holbeck.

Roding birds were reported from sites in the south of the county, such as Agden, Redmires, Strines, Sugden, Wharncliffe Heath, Whirlow Park and Wyming Brook, from Harewood Park near Leeds, from several sites in the Harrogate district, and Jumble Hole Clough, Walshaw Dene, West Vale and Withens Clough in the Halifax area. Wintering birds were noted at many sites on the edges of the hills and from lower ground at Blacktoft Sands, Old Moor, Potteric Carr and Thorne Moors, but not Wintersett in the early winter period. A rather good year was reported from Fairburn Ings, where there were 23 sightings of single birds in January, February and March, and 13 records of single birds during November and December. There were eleven reports in the early months in the Leeds recording area and just four in the later months. Wintering birds were reported in Upper Wharfedale, and noted as more common in autumn and late winter in the Harrogate area: an obvious influx was noted at Bellflask Quarry at the end of November, when seven were flushed on 28th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* **A**
Red list and UK BAP subspecies (*limosa*): rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/192. WeBS Status – Int. threshold 350: GB threshold 150
There has been a large increase in the wintering population of the Icelandic *islandica* race in the UK, and on the Humber in particular, since the mid 1980's, although flocks seen on the Yorkshire side are often birds visiting from the main south bank population. This year, inland passage was exceptional, with records from many sites and record counts at several. Some birds of the declining nominate western Eurasian form *limosa* also occur on passage and have occasionally attempted to breed.

Good numbers were noted on the Humber WeBS in spring, including 192 at Spurn on 19th March and 305 were seen at Paull Holme Strays on 19th April. A flock present in the Easington Long Bank area from January to April peaked at 143 on 30th March. Early winter records came from Brough Haven, High Eske, Melton foreshore, North Cave Wetlands and Tophill Low. Passage through the Derwent Valley in April included 65 at Ellerton Ings on 16th and 50 at Wheldrake Ings on 29th, and 95 were at North Duffield Carrs on 1st May. Return passage was noted from July: 35 circled over Tophill Low on 2nd, 11 came in-off at Atwick on 9th, 153 were at Saltend on 11th, 35 on Brough airfield on 17th, with numbers at Paull Holme Strays increasing from 410 on 10th to 1474 on 25th. Two of these were seen to be colour-ringed. In August numbers continued to build up at Paull Holme Strays, with 2363 on 15th and 3000+ on 21st. Elsewhere in August, noted at Barmston, North Cave Wetlands, Pulfin & High Eske and Tophill Low. Records at coastal observatories included: at Filey, 33 pitched down 1st May on East Lea before heading west. A colour-ringed bird was at Filey Dams on 18th July, followed by single juveniles from 15th August through to 4th September and 1st to 7th October. Five were noted at Flamborough on 25th April with 11 seen there on 8th July marking the onset of southerly passage. The autumn passage at Filey started with one south over the sea on 2nd July and five south there on 11th July. Offshore passage in the autumn at Spurn saw 168 fly south, including 43 on 7th, 94 on 9th and 17 on 17th July.

The wintering bird from 2005 continued to be seen in the vicinity of Scalby Lodge Pond to 19th February, and a second bird occasionally present, with singles also on 4th March, 21st April (a summer-plumaged *limosa*), two on 15th June and one on 3rd July. Three were at Scaling Dam on 29th June. At Coatham Marsh there were 22 on 10th July and 12 on 7th August. Five flew south past Scalby Mills on the 7th August. Continuing the recent spate of winter records a single was at Scalby Lodge Pond from 5th to 6th December.

Records were received from a large number of sites, including winter records, and passage was noted, particularly in May and August/September. One at Hay-a-Park GP on 1st January was the first recorded at that site. The largest numbers were recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, where recorded from March, with a spring passage peak of 147 on 13th April. Numbers increased in mid-July to early August, with peaks of 260 on 19th July and 1st August, with double figure counts then to late November. In the Old Moor area, recorded from January to March in ones and twos, with the highest count of the year of 78 on 7th July, with 60 seen on 13th. A colour-ringed bird on 18th/19th July was ringed at Holbeach, Wash on 22 August 2005. Birds were also noted at Beal Carrs (18 on 3rd July); Bellflask Quarry (13 on 2nd May); Fairburn Ings (86 on 2nd May); Farnham GP (eight on 17th April); Gouthwaite Res; Mickletown Ings; Nicholson's Lagoons; Potteric Carr, (20 bird/days between 4th July and 15th September, the peak being five on 9th August); Pugneys; Ringstone Edge (four on 12th July); Rodley NR; Rother Valley CP (seven on 4th August), Southfield Res (ten on 10th May); Staveley NR; Swillington Ings (117 on 1st May); Thorne Moors (five on 1st August); Wintersett (five on 1st and 2nd May); Withens Clough. There were unusual numbers in December, with a flock of 60+ flying west at Elland Gravel Pits on 10th and parties at Swillington Ings of 55 and nine birds on 10th and one on 27th.

After two at Nosterfield NR on 30th March and 11th April, passage started with 19 on 19th April, then 38 on 21st, 40 on 22nd, 23rd and 26th and 15 on 27th. After a lull, 94 appeared on 30th April. From one to seven were present on several dates during June and July, with 13 on 11th July and a late bird on 12th November. Seven were at Flasks Lake on 22nd June.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland. BBS 1/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 620
Breeds in the arctic tundra, the nominate race *lapponica* wintering on estuaries around the North Sea. Winters on the Humber, but many birds are thought to leave in February for the Wadden Sea.

Numbers were slightly lower than in 2005 on the Humber in winter, although from April to July, and particularly in September, numbers were higher. Relatively rare up the Humber, six were at Brough Haven on 27th January, one there on 14th and two on 25th March and three on 23rd September. Numbers at Paull Holme Strays peaked in spring with 215 on 24th March and 278 on 11th April, with the only records away from the Humber singles at North Cave Wetlands on 28th March and at Tophill Low on 12th May. Small numbers were noted on passage at Filey, with a peak of ten in Filey CP in early May. At Spurn, a light southerly passage in the autumn consisted of 132 flying south, five in/off the sea, and two out east between 9th July and 30th November. Only noted in small numbers on the coast on spring and autumn passage in the Scarborough area.

At Fairburn Ings the first record was of six on 15th March. A small passage in early May included 40 at Old Moor including a flock of 37 recorded at Broomhill Flash, 13 at Thrybergh CP on 7th, ten at Wintersett, five at Rother Valley, three at Gouthwaite Res and two at Potteric Carr that were the first there for 24 years. Eight were at Swillington Ings on 1st and 2nd May, 14 at Fairburn on 2nd, and still seven at Swillington on 3rd with one over on 4th and one at Rodley NR on 7th (a new species for the reserve). One flew over Littlethorpe on 16th July. In August, one was at Nicholson's Lagoons on 7th, one at Southfield Res on 11th and two on 23rd, one on Wath Ings on the 13th, one over Swillington Ings on 16th whilst at Blacktoft Sands, logged on four days, with no more than three birds seen. One was at Fairburn on 7th and 8th September, one at Swillington Ings on 13th and possibly the same bird on 17th, 18th and 21st with one on 29th November. Three birds flew west at Highroad Well Moor, Mount Tabor on 29th November and single birds were recorded at Rother Valley CP between 25th and 29th and at Wath Ings on 28th December.

One was at Nosterfield NR on 21st and 22nd April and three on 7th May. On 1st May, four were at Lingham Water and one was at NNR on 16th December.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant. BBS 1/192
Breeds from northeast Greenland east to Siberia, with a small population in northern Scotland, migrating overland and along the coast to winter in Africa. The arrival date of 3rd April was the same date as 2005.

There was an excellent spring passage at Filey, with 82 bird/days logged after the first at the Dams on 12th April until 31st May. The first bird arrived at Spurn on 15th April and the spring saw many double-figure counts, including a maximum count of 35 on 14th May, with 58 in total on the Humber that day. Spring passage at Spurn, between 16th April and 12th June, saw 25 flying south, 9 in/off the sea and 16 leaving east. At Flamborough, there were five on four dates in April, and 19 bird days in May, but June had just one on 3rd. Inland, the first reported were singles at Pulfin & High Eske and North Cave Wetlands on 21st April, followed by four at Swinemoor on 25th, one at Pulfin & High Eske on 29th and three at Watton NR on 30th and a light passage continued through May, including up to five at Paull Holme Strays on 16th and five at North Cave Wetlands. Returning birds started to appear from early July, peak numbers recorded between late July and early August. Two flew south a Filey on 2nd July and then 308 bird/days were recorded in the month and 137 bird/days in August, with three in September to 8th. Up to seven was the norm at Flamborough in July, but a big movement at the month end brought 219 on 29th and 68 on 30th. Up to 25 noted in August. Late summer counts of up to 40 regularly seen at Spurn, where the peak count was 77 on 16th July. Autumn migration there saw 583 fly south and 43 come in/off the sea between 8th July and 27th September, giving high counts of 47 on 23rd, 211 on 29th and 52 on 30th July. Three on 3rd November at Flamborough were unusually late. Inland, one was at Saltend on 11th July, and through to August, small numbers were reported from Hornsea Mere, Atwick, Barmston, North Cave Wetlands and Paull Holme Strays, with birds at the latter site to 9th September.

Two were at Scalby Lodge Pond on the 17th April, and 30 were recorded in the Scarborough area in spring. Additionally a flock of ten alighted in a grassy meadow on Starr Carr on the 14th May. At South Gare, a notable flock of 50 flew north-west on 24th April. One passed Long Nab on 11th July and around 150 birds were logged moving through the Scarborough area, with several flocks in double figures and a maximum 25 south at Long Nab on the 17th August. Inland records in autumn included two at Scaling Dam on 27th July. A late bird flew north at Marine Drive, Scarborough on the 4th October.

A regular passage migrant especially in spring. The first single flew over Pugneys on 6th April followed by singles at Pugneys on 15th, 25th and 2nd May. Recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 13th April to 12th August, with four on 13th July the peak count. April records also came from Potteric Carr on 17th and 22nd April, Staveley NR on 15th, Wombwell Ings on the 19th (two), Ulley CP on 22nd, Wintersett from 22nd to 25th, Southfield Res on 23rd and 30th, Fairburn Ings (eight on 24th followed by regular reports of one or two throughout early and mid-May), Ringstone Edge (two on 29th) and Pit House West (three on 30th). Other May records included several in the Old Moor area including seven on 7th; six further records at Southfield; three north over Famham GP on 1st; six north at Wintersett on 5th; up to seven at Swillington Ings between 6th and 15th; five at Redmires Res on 9th, three over Thorne Moors on 11th; 12 over Sicklinghall on 17th and other birds at Bellflask Quarry, Rother Valley, Silverwood Lagoon, Rodley NR and Thrybergh CP.

In the autumn, birds were noted at Southfield Res from 17th July (one), then three on 27th, two on 28th and one on 31st, and one 8th September. Two were seen at Ringstone Edge on 20th July and singles on 2nd and 21st August, with four southwest on the 31st. Singles were seen at Pugneys on 29th July and 13th August and four flew over Gouthwaite Res on 30th July. Also in August, one was at Green Withens on 5th and another on 24th, one over Eccup Res on 15th, five were at Bellflask Quarry on 24th, two passed through Old Moor on the 29th and one was at Soil Hill on 31st. Autumn passage at Fairburn consisted of four in August, and three in September. There was also an unusual winter record of one on 22nd November.

One over Lingham Water on 3rd April was the first followed by single birds or small parties of up to four reported, mainly flying over the Nosterfield area, the maxima being on 15th May when seven flew north over Lingham Water and eight dropped into Nosterfield NR and 17th when seven were again at Lingham. The first returning birds were one over Flasks Lake on 20th June, four at Nosterfield NR on 30th June, then singles, with three at Flasks Lake on 1st September and one over Great Ouseburn on 3rd September.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 94/192: -28% (-22) decrease 1994-2006, -10% (-4) decrease 2005-06
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 4200: GB threshold 1500
Breeds from Ireland to central Siberia, including upland Yorkshire. The increase noted in 2004-5 was not sustained this year, and this species appears to continue to decline in the county and nationally.

Noted in the breeding season along the Market Weighton Canal and the Derwent Valley. Peak counts on the Humber in February and September were higher than in 2005, but numbers in all other months were lower, with the mean monthly counts down from 1654 to 1359. Peak counts of wintering birds in the Hull Valley included 180 at Brough Haven, 62 at Tophill Low and 40 at Pulfin & High Eske. The wintering flock at Filey on the wavecut platform below the Blue Dolphin Caravan Park peaked at 85 on 19th March. Failed breeders accounted for small flocks in the second half of June at Filey, with 14 south on 25th and 15 on 27th. At Flamborough, peak counts included 40 on 24th January and 69 on 25th March. Autumn offshore passage at Spurn saw 120 fly south and 31 come in/off the sea between 5th July and 30th November. Most regular passage occurred during July but the only double-figure count was 72 on 9th July.

A small breeding population exists on the Carrs in the Vale of Pickering, at Sherburn Ings, Star Carr and

Ruston Carr, and others breed on pastures in the North York Moors valleys and fell sides. In Bransdale, 50 were counted on 16th April. Counts in winter in the Scarborough area included 60 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 29th January and 50 on 10th March.

An unusually early bird was seen in Hebden Gill on 1st January and again 11th to 13th. At Fairburn Ings, up to 34 were seen in the first three months of the year reducing to a maximum of ten in April and up to eight in May and June. The first returning bird to Southfield Res was on 11th February, and in the Halifax area on 13th, with birds noted at Old Moor from 14th. At Swillington Ings wintering numbers were no more than 20, then more birds appeared as spring migration got under way, with counts of 31 on 19th January increasing to 65 at the end of February and early March. At least 50 in a field at Rougemont on 14th March showed that some birds are still moving through the Wharfe valley in spring. Pre-breeding counts in March included 42 at Walshaw Dene on 17th, 21 at Ringstone Edge on 21st and 24 at Gorple on 31st. Breeding records were hard to assess, but the species seems to be doing well in the west around Walshaw Dean and in the north around Fly Flats and High Brown Knoll. Breeding was noted at a number of Upper Wharfedale sites and two pairs probably bred at Fairburn Ings. At Wintersett one of the regular pairs was back at the CP on 17th February, with at least two pairs present on 6th March and six pairs held territories throughout the breeding season. Present in the breeding season on the south Yorkshire Peak where recorded at Bradfield Moor, Howden Clough, Howden Moor, Strines Moor and Whitwell Moor. Return passage commenced in June at Swillington Ings, with 35 roosting by the end of the month and 100 birds present on 2nd September. Counts in the forties or fifties were then not uncommon, with up to 65 in October and 66 in November indicating the wintering population. The highest post-breeding count at Old Moor was 25 on the 16th August, and 38 passed through Potteric Carr that month. Most have left the moors by late August, with late records including two at Soil Hill on 3rd September, one at Fly Flats on 6th October and three at Lighthazzles on 9th November, although singles were at Potteric Carr on 24th and 28th December.

Unlike the previous VCs, many more birds winter, although passage birds augment numbers. 200 were at Bellflask Quarry on 8th January and 150 on 5th March, 60 in Ripon Parks on 12th January, up to 36 at Nosterfield NR in late January, 85 at Lingham Water on 31st January with 104 on 4th February, 114 at Flasks Lake on 18th February and 173 on 18th March. Peak numbers in the second half of the year included 110 at Flasks Lake on 9th August, 60 to 80 were in Ripon Parks from 5th October into November, 86 at Lingham Water on 14th October, 107 at Ripon Racecourse/Ox Close area on 18th and 177 at Nosterfield NR on 30th December. Several pairs nested on the middle ground and in meadows on the low ground; two pairs at Nosterfield NR each hatched four young.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* **A**

Uncommon breeder in north and west; passage migrant elsewhere. BBS 6/192

Breeds on stony upland rivers and reservoirs in the county, migrating south to winter as far as southern Africa. Passage includes birds moving to and from breeding grounds in Scotland and Fennoscandia.

One was at High Eske, two at Filey Dams and one on the Brigg on 15th April, an earlier than average first date for the coast, with sightings at Filey almost daily from 30th April, peaking at seven on 15th May. Singles at Hornsea Mere and Tophill Low on 18th were followed by a further 30+ spring records in Hull Valley Wildlife Group area to 16th June, with up to two at North Cave Wetlands throughout May. Generally remained scarce at Spurn from 21st April, but one to two were recorded on 10 dates in May and singles on four dates in June. Ten were counted on the WeBS for the wider Spurn area on 14th May. Flamborough only managed two, on 23rd and 28th April. Return passage was noted from 4th July, with peak counts in July of eight at Hornsea Mere on 10th, six at North Cave Wetlands on 23rd, five at Brough airfield on 25th and three at Pulfin & High Eske on 27th, and in August, four at Kelk on 12th, 12 at Tophill Low on 13th and six at HM on 14th, with eight there on 15th September. One was at Filey Dams on 8th July before nine bird/days recorded between 17th and 26th July, with a best of five on the Brigg on the latter date. Only occasional singles were then noted to 13th September. At Flamborough, singles were noted on 8th July, 18th and 20th August, and 3rd and 10th September. Peak counts at Spurn were seven on 10th July, an impressive 42 on 18th August, while in September, one to two were recorded on only six dates followed by just a single in October on 18th. A late bird lingered at North Cave Wetlands in October, seen on 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th.

The first record was at Wykeham Lakes on the 13th April, with the first two birds of an unremarkable spring in Cleveland at Scaling Dam on 14th April and two were also there on 26th. Spring records also came from Sand Hutton, Scalby Mills, Scalby Lodge Pond, Wykeham Lakes and Harwood Dale Lake. Autumn coastal passage: four were at Wykeham Lakes on the 18th July, rising to seven five days later, and up to three were present at Scaling Dam in July and eight in August, and nine were at Coatham Marsh on 20th August. Inland, two were at Sand Hutton on 16th September. One at Scaling Dam on 18th November was the latest ever in Cleveland (ECP).

The first returning birds of the year were singles at Thrybergh on 1st April, where up to five during the month, and also at Southfield Res on 1st April where spring passage lasted to 19th May. Other April birds were at Langsett Res, Redmires Res (where six on 6th May), Rother Valley CP, Treeton Dyke, Ulley CP and Wentworth Dams. There was a series of records at Swillington Ings and also Pugneys CP from 3rd April, where up to five were seen later that month, followed by one at Bellflask quarry on 6th and two at Old Moor on the 8th, where eight was the peak count later in the year, and one at Fairburn Ings on 8th, where regularly seen until late May with a maximum of four on 21st April, two in June followed by the main autumn period where the maximum count of ten was received on 2nd September and the last on 14th. Up to four were noted at Wintersett between 11th April and 25th September. The first at Potteric Carr was on 13th April, with up to four in late April and May, singles on several dates in June and July and up to four in August. The largest assemblies were at Gouthwaite Res where there were nine on 22nd April, 15 on 27th April, 24th June and 12th July, although eight were at Skelton Lake on 23rd April. Return passage at Southfield Res commenced on 25th June, with a peak of ten on 10th July. No more than two were recorded at Blacktoft Sands from 3rd May to 3rd October.

Breeding considered widespread at upland reservoirs and waters during the summer, including Cold Edge Dams, Fly Flats, Green Withens, Lighthazzles, Ringstone Edge, Walshaw Dean, Winscar Res. In Upper Wharfedale reported at Grimwith by 4th April and subsequently small numbers were noted in the breeding season upriver to Hubberholme and Halton Gill. It was described as an excellent year at Rodley NR with birds reported on 44 dates, but although two birds were seen mating there was no firm evidence of nesting or young. In contrast it was considered an extremely poor year at Eccup Res, with just three records and other reports came from Harewood Park, Lindley Wood Res, Pool Paper Mills, Roundhay Park, Wighill Ings and Yeadon Tarn.

The first was at Nosterfield NR on 13th April, where maxima of ten were on 29th June and 9th July. The last were at Nosterfield NR on 4th October and Flasks Lake on 8th October.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant, more numerous in autumn: some over-winter

Breeds in the boreal zone from Norway eastwards, occurring on passage at inland waters and gravel pits and occasionally in winter on freshwater streams.

Recorded from January to October, with records in the first three months from North Cattleholmes, North Cave Wetlands, High Eske, Hull Bridge and Tophill Low. Spring passage was light, with 11 bird/days recorded at Tophill Low, up to two at North Cave Wetlands and other singles at Watton NR, Wassand, Patrington Haven, Kiplingcotes and Paull Holme Strays. The pattern on the coast was one of passage. Filey's single spring record was on 15th April, when one was also seen at Spurn, where two recorded on 23rd April were the only other spring records. Three at Flamborough on 23rd April was unusual. On return passage Tophill Low had 20 on 15th July and 14 regularly to 20th August, while North Cave Wetlands had up to four in this period, then singles in September and October and one in December on 25th and 27th. Birds were also recorded at Routh Pits, Watton NR, Kelk and Pulfin & High Eske, where 43 birds were recorded on 34 dates from January to October, with three the maximum daily count. In autumn, recorded at Filey on only three days in July, with 27 bird/days in August including four on 1st and three on 16th, with one to 14th September and singles occasionally to 8th November. Unusually, one was on the Brigg on 23rd July. At Flamborough July there were singles on 16th and 23rd, while August obliged with one on 6th, seven on 18th and two on 27th. There was a late single on 8th November. Passage at Spurn also commenced in July, with the first on 13th, four on 23rd and 24th, nine on 26th, and eight on 27th. One to four were seen on 11 dates in August, while in September one flew west over the Point on 7th.

A wintering individual was at Cayton Carrs on the 15th January. In spring, two were on the river at Wykeham Carr on 1st March and 22nd April, and at least one on the River Hertford at Star Carr on 16th April. Return migrants included an early bird on Filey Tip Pond on 27th June. Singles were at Scalby Lodge Pond on 12th July, Wykeham Lakes on 18th July, and in September five were at Star Carr on 4th and one at Wykeham Lakes on 18th.

Early winter records to March came from Aldwarke SF, Beal Carrs, Blackburn Meadows, Dalton Magna, Fairburn Ings (one or two), Rodley NR, Rother Valley, Silverwood Lagoon, Southfield Res and Tinsley SF (two). Southfield Res had six further records in April, July, September and October. Recorded Swillington Ings on 16th April and 13th May, at Potteric Carr from 25th April to 10th October, with peaks of six on 26th July and nine on 25th August, and a similar pattern was noted at Blacktoft Sands RSPB where recorded from 2nd May to 26th September, 13 on 25th July being the peak count. As usual there were a few mid-summer records from the Lower Aire Valley, but birds were seen from late July at both Swillington Ings and Leventhorpe Hall Pond and occasionally at Skelton Lake on most days in August, with peak counts elsewhere of 13 at Leventhorpe Hall Pond, four at Swillington Ings, two at Eccup Res and one at Rodley. In the Old Moor area, recorded in every

month, with the highest count of the year 15 on 17th August. At Wintersett, one was seen on 9th May but the autumn produced an excellent selection of singles between 3rd July and 29th September, with two on 21st August. Recorded at Beal Carrs from 20th June to 3rd December, with a peak count of nine on 15th July, and at Thorne Moors from 1st August to 2nd December with six on 19th September. At Fairburn Ings, two on 24th June and regularly throughout July, August and September, with the maximum being ten on 7th August. Elsewhere, birds were at Rother Valley (two), Fly Flats and Whiteholme in July; Aldwarke (five), Blackburn Meadows, Old Denaby, Pugneys, Redmires Res, Ringstone Edge and Thrybergh in August, with five at Blackburn Meadows on 3rd October and seven there on 29th November. Wintering birds were seen at Fairburn from October to December and other late birds were two at Skelton Lake on 21st October and two at Knostrop SF on 30th December.

Five were at Nosterfield NR on 19th August.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant; occasionally over-winters
A passage migrant from northern Scandinavia and subarctic regions further east.

In the Spurn area, one was present in January between 2nd and 17th, with singles at Tophill Low on 12th February, Paull Holme Strays on 15th April and Beacon Ponds NR on 27th April and 5th and 24th July. One was at Aughton Ings on 20th April. Inland, return passage commenced at North Cave Wetlands, where a summer-plumaged bird on 15th July was first of the year. A juvenile was then present from 21st August to 1st September, two juveniles on 10th September, finally one on 14th November. One was also at Spurn on 26th July, where singles were recorded on eight dates during August with two on 28th, three singles in September, and one on 13th October. Only occasionally seen elsewhere on the Humber: one was at Paull Holme Strays on 7th August, and four were at Cherry Cobb Sands on 24th August, with seven there on 10th September. Three juveniles dropped on to the Main Pool at Filey Dams on 9th September, with one present next day. Two were on South Landing Beach, Flamborough on 23rd October.

Four were regularly noted at the premier site of Blacktoft Sands RSPB in January and February, with five seen on 3rd January. Numbers increased from late March, with ten on 13th April, 12 in June and July, 25 on 14th August, 17 in September, 16 in October, 11 in November and ten still wintering on 26th December. Elsewhere, two were at Wintersett on May 8th and singles were recorded at Old Moor Wetlands on 21 dates from August to November. Sightings of a single bird at Swillington Ings on 14th, 21st and 25th August possibly all related to the same individual and also in August, a juvenile was at Pugneys on 20th and 21st and one at Staveley NR on 21st. In September, one was at Wintersett on 2nd, one at Bellflask Quarry on 5th and one was at Southfield Res on 17th.

One was seen at Flasks Lake on 22nd June and another there on 20th August. Nosterfield NR had one on 3rd July and a juvenile from 20th to 26th August. One was at Lingham Water on 22nd July.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters
Breeds in north and west Scotland east through northern Scandinavia to Kamchatka. Although wintering in the UK in record numbers, birds generally pass through the county to winter further south.

Only noted on Humber WeBs in May (eight), July (16, 13 at Spurn and three at Blacktoft Sands RSPB), August (22, including ten at Stone Creek), September (ten) and October (five).

The first two were at Paull Holme Strays from 19th to 21st April, with a May peak count there of six on 15th, with singles also recorded at North Cave Wetlands and Pulfin & High Eske, and two on Swinemoor on 11th May. On the coast, five singles were recorded at Filey Dams between 1st and 18th May and singles were noted at Flamborough on 4th, 6th and 8th May and 24th June. The first single was seen at Spurn on 5th May. Return passage included peak counts of 24 at Beacon Ponds NR on 28th July, 10 at Tophill Low on 18th August, five at North Cave Wetlands on 25th August, 16 at Paull Home Strays on 6th September, 15 at Cherry Cobb Sands on 10th September. At Filey, peak counts were four on 2nd and five on 19th August, whilst Flamborough recorded 11 singles between July and 23rd September. At Spurn, birds were present on the Humber almost daily from mid-July to 17th October. High counts included 17 on 17th and 15 on 18th July, 18 on 20th August and 24 on 6th September. Birds were also reported from Atwick, Barmston and Brough. Late singles were seen at Spurn on 15th November and BPNR on 9th December.

One flew north at Long Nab on the 22nd April and Scalby Lodge Pond attracted further singles on the 4th May and 8th-10th May, with two present on the 15th May. One was on Coatham Marsh on 4th May, one on Scaling Dam on 24th June and one at Wykeham Lakes on 28th June. Birds were noted in the Scarborough area through July and August in ones and twos, with two at Wykeham Lakes on 1st October.

First noted at Mossy Moor Res on 14th April, then Swillington Ings had two spring birds on 15th April and singles on 30th April and 11th, 13th and 16th May. The first at Southfield Res was on 23rd April, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 26th, Potteric Carr on 30th and in the Barnsley area on 4th May with four at Old Moor on the 8th/9th May a good number for spring. In May, singles were at Southfield on 11th and 14th and at Wintersett on 26th. Early to return was one at Thorne Moors on 23rd June and probably the same bird at Old Moor the next day, where there were regular records throughout July, August and September, with eight the highest count and late records on 2nd October and 14th November. At Thorne Moors the peak count was seven on 10th August. The first of the year at Fairburn Ings was not until 25th June followed by two more sightings of one and three birds in July, the maxima being five on 26th and 30th August and the last on 30th October. At Wintersett, there were ten records from 30th June to 30th September. Two birds were recorded at Thrybergh on 6th July, with three on 6th August. The first autumn bird was back at Swillington on 9th July, with other July birds on three dates, 12 on 27th August and up to seven in September, and at Rother Valley CP from 11th July with others in August and September. Southfield Res had a good series of records from 15th July to 11th September, with four on 22nd August the peak. At Potteric Carr, one on 23rd July was followed by a single from 31st to 24th August, with four on 11th and two on 29th. The peak count at Beal Carrs was five on 30th July. In the Halifax area, singles were noted at Fly Flatts on 9th and 31st July, Whiteholme on 8th and 9th August and another or the same there on 12th and 13th August. The one Pugneys record was on 17th August. Numbers peaked at Blacktoft in mid-August when 16 were counted on 13th, with a late bird on 26th October. Elsewhere, in August, recorded at Blackburn Meadows, Leventhorpe Hall Pond, Eccup Res, Lindley Wood Res, Mickletown Ings and Redmires Res and at Rother Valley CP, Silverwood Lagoon and Thrybergh Banks in September. One at Bellflask Quarry on 1st November was lame.

An individual, present at Nicholson's Lagoons from 1st January to 1st April, returned again on 5th November, and was presumably the one which overwintered last year. Very few birds passed through in spring at the well-watched waters, with only one or two records between 14th April and 13th May. A few were returning from 25th June, one to four being present at Nosterfield NR up to 20th August when seven appeared, staying until 28th August, thereafter up to five were present on 7th and 13th September.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* **A**
Amber list: scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn
Like the previous species, breeds in the boreal zone, but does breed in northern Scotland and winters further south in the Tropics. Autumn passage was more widespread than usual, with Potteric Carr recording its first autumn record since 1979.

In spring, the first were three at Nosterfield NR and Flask Lake on 26th April, (same date as 2005), followed by one at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 28th, one at Wheldrake Ings on 29th April, then singles were recorded in May on 3rd and 9th at Nosterfield and the Outer Head at Flamborough on 6th, Pugneys CP on 8th, Scalby Lodge Pond from 9th to 14th, Filey on 10th and 11th, with one at Tophill Low /Watton NR also on 10th and 11th and presumably the same bird from 13th to 15th, at North Cave Wetlands, two from 12th to 16th, with one until 17th, at Swillington Ings also on 13th and at Scalby Lodge Ponds again on 25th and one also on 14th June. At Spurn, the first record was a single in/off the sea on 22nd June. One was on the West Lagoon at Staveley NR on 28th June.

Return passage included a single bird at Rodley NR on 24th July that was a new species for the reserve, one at Nosterfield NR on 25th then one to three on several dates from 30th July to 8th September. One was at Wath Ings from 25th July to the 1st August, and again on the 14th to 20th and 22nd August. One was at Potteric Carr from 31st July to 8th August, with another on 3rd September. At Spurn, passage began with one on 6th August, then one to three between 12th and 27th August with the last on 27th, bringing the bird/day total to 16. One made a protracted stay on Filey Dams between 12th and 24th August, joined by a second from 13th to 21st. One was at Swillington Ings on 10th August. Singles were seen at Flamborough Head, Pulfin & High Eske and Tophill Low on 19th August, with one at the latter site on 21st, when one was also at North Cave Wetlands, and one was at Cherry Cobb Sands on 24th. The first returning bird at Blacktoft Sands was not until one from 19th August to 28th September, with two from 30th August to 7th September and three seen on 3rd and 4th September. Elsewhere in August, four were at Staveley NR on 20th, one at Farnham GP on 20th and 25th, one at Bellflask Quarry on 30th and in September, up to two were at Beacon Ponds NR from 3rd to 6th September. An exceptionally late bird was at Nosterfield NR on 22nd October.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 10/192
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1300: GB threshold 1200
Small numbers breed in saltmarsh along the Humber, only a few at grassy upland sites and some wet meadows, but nationally the breeding population is declining.

Numbers counted on the Humber were lower than 2005, with the monthly average count down from 2007 to 1645 birds. In January, the count of 3022 reflected the number wintering from the previous year, but similar numbers were not noted in the second winter period. The numbers of non-breeders returning to both estuaries were much higher than usual.

Peak counts included 125 at Tophill Low in January, 161 at Pulfin & High Eske in February, 93 at Brough Haven in April, 900 at Paull Holme Strays in August and 51 at North Cave Wetlands in December. Two pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands, each raising two young and a pair nested at Swinemoor, with other birds present in summer at Paull Holme Strays, Brough Airfield Marsh and Brough Haven. The wintering population peaked at 105 on Filey CP on 11th January, where, between 8th July and 13th September, a modest 294 flew south. At Flamborough, usually less than 20 present, but passage in July saw 46 on 8th and 54 on 9th, which preceded 60 on 22nd and 125 on 23rd. At Spurn, autumn passage involved 479 flying south and 21 in/off the sea between 7th July and 26th October.

A few were present at Scaling Dam throughout the year, the best total being seven in April, though no evidence of breeding was received. Numerous along the Scarborough area coast in early spring, autumn and winter, where the highest counts came from high tide roosts at Scalby Lodge Pond of 170 in January, 140 in February, 300 in March and 200 in April. The highest late winter count at Scalby Lodge Pond was 84 on 4th November.

The highest count at Blacktoft Sands was 70 on 19th July. Recorded in all months except September at Wath Ings: a count of 115 on the 22nd April contained a migratory flock of 91. In May nine pairs were noted on territory, four on Old Moor and five on Wombwell Ings: four young were hatched at Old Moor, and two on Wombwell Ings. At Wintersett, after one in January, summering birds arrived in February and small numbers on passage were noted. Single pairs bred successfully at both Wintersett and Potteric Carr. In the Halifax area, where sightings at twelve sites fell between 19th March and 20th August, one bred successfully at Cold Edge Dams and display was noted at Ringstone Edge. Birds were noted from 22nd March to 22nd July in Upper Wharfedale at Kilnsey, Mossy Moor Res, Grassington Moor, Grimwith Res and on Boss Moor. Eight pairs are thought to have bred at Fairburn Ings, where seen throughout the year, with the year's highest count of 50 being recorded on passage on 18th March. Three pairs were thought to have bred at Swillington Ings, with 40 wintering birds at Skelton Lake, 30 still there in late March and a dozen lingering to mid-April. Wintering birds reappeared at Skelton Lake in November, with at least 35 in the area by the end of the year. Gouthwaite Res had small numbers during the year, with up to 15 in April and 20 on 12th July and birds were also noted at Bellflask Quarry and Hay-a-Park GP.

Up to three wintered at Nosterfield NR, being present during January/February and November/December, when one or two were also present at the nearby Lingham Water and Flasks Lake. Passage birds were at Nosterfield NR on several dates from 2nd April to the end of May, when 20 to 30 were often present and a flock of 44 Icelandic birds dropped into Lingham Water on 1st May. Fifteen pairs bred at Nosterfield NR, only nine of which hatched young.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* **A**
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 1000: GB threshold 500
Birds breeding in northeast Canada, Greenland and Fennoscandia winter on rocky or coarse sand coasts, and sections of estuary with fucoid covered cobbles from the North Sea south to West Africa, although they can roost in dockland areas. Remains a scarce passage visitor inland, but there was a marked passage in May of birds mostly moving west to east.

On the Humber, most feeding birds are counted at Spurn, where present throughout the year, but occasionally recorded in the Paull Holme area where 21 on 30th January and 18 on 15th May. The roost at Hull Docks continued to be used occasionally in the early months, with 33 on 19th February and 140 on 12th March, and 21 were on the foreshore in west Hull on 13th August. Birds also roost near Patrington Haven occasionally, with 46 noted on 17th September. Up to 20 were present in the early winter period at Flamborough, 16 at Barmston and five at Skipsea, and the wintering flock at Filey Brigg peaked at 26 on 23rd February, but up to 16 summered. In spring, 25 flew north there on 30th May, and in autumn, 38 south on 29th July. Offshore passage in the autumn at Spurn was reasonable: 259 flew south and 17 came in/off the sea between 15th July and 31st October. Passage peaked during late July when high counts of 84 on 26th and 33 on 29th were logged. Winter counts included up to 45 at Flamborough in November. Inland, seen regularly at North Cave Wetlands, where one on 18th April was the first of the year with one also on 25th, two on 13th May with one on 28th and 29th, a flock of 10 briefly on 15th August, two on 3rd September being the last of the year. One was on Filey Dams reserve on 15th November. The only other inland record and a site rarity was one at Tophill Low on D Res wall on 18th Aug.

At Scarborough harbour, 23 were seen on 20th January, 62 on 15th March, and high-tide counts at Scalby Lodge Pond produced 76 on 15th March and year's maximum of 98 on the 3rd April. In the later months, high counts included 70 in Jackson's Bay on both the 25th August and 12th September, 63 at Scarborough harbour on the 14th December.

One was seen at Southfield Res on 2nd January. Passage in May began at Swillington Ings where four on 7th, three on 8th, two on 13th, on 14th, two on 15th, on 16th and one on 29th. Then at Wintersett, where two were seen on 8th May, with one staying to the 10th, two were over the CP on 13th, one on the Park Lake shallows from 14th to 18th, with two there on 29th that joined a migrant flock of nine which passed over. Birds were noted at various sites on 9th including Redmires Res and Rother Valley CP, where recorded on 10th, 14th, 17th and 19th, and also at Fairburn Ings on 9th, where followed by five more records, including one of two birds on 15th. A similar pattern was noted at Southfield Res in May where three on 11th, one on 12th, three on 13th, one on 19th and five flew north on 29th. Also in May, at Old Moor/Wath Ings, one on 13th and 14th, two there on the 15th, with a single bird on the 29th, 30th and 31st. Two were at Potteric Carr and one at Grimwith Res on 14th, two at Thorne Moors on 16th and at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, one was seen on 22nd and three on 25th. Elsewhere in May, three were at Ringstone Edge on 22nd, one at Thrybergh CP and four at Fly Flats on 29th and one was at Warland on 31st. Returning birds were noted at Southfield Res with one on 27th July, two on 28th, and one there on 29th, and in August, singles on 9th and 23rd, with one on 9th September. At Old Moor, noted on 31st July, 2nd, 12th, 18th, 19th August, and two at Wath Ings on 10th August. Also in August, singles were at Swillington Ings on 1st, Silverwood Lagoon on 3rd, Rother Valley CP on 13th, whilst at Blacktoft, there was one on 13th and 14th August and seven on 3rd September. There was just one rather late autumn record, a single that flew south over Wintersett on October 23rd.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* **A** 2,2,2,1,1
Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn
The Western Palaearctic population extends from northern Scotland eastwards through Scandinavia and northern Russia and migrates overland to winter in the Arabian Sea. It has declined as a British breeder and just a few are now reported annually, with the majority of records from the east coast in autumn.

A bird in breeding plumage was at Gouthwaite Res on 29th May when it was seen by several people and photographed (PJC: LL *et al.*). An adult female as found on Beacon Ponds NR on 30th July (JG), and was seen on the Humber at Spurn towards dusk on the evening of 31st (DWo *et al.*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* **A** 20,17,11,25,8
Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland
This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north-westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

There were four records on seawatches at Flamborough Head: one south on 26th January (PAL), one south on 26th October (PAL), one north on 2nd November (BR *et al.*) and one south on 10th November (PAL). Two birds flew south at Long Nab, Burniston on the 19th September (NWA). An elusive single was off Filey Brigg on 12th, 14th and 18th November (AHo: JHo: JS *et al.*) and one was on Hornsea Mere on 20th November (MR).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* **A**
Uncommon coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland
Breeds in circumpolar sub-Arctic regions, migrating south, sometimes overland, to winter in the southern oceans.

Winter records in the North Sea are not unusual, so two past Flamborough on 11th February are not without precedent. In spring there were just two north past Flamborough on 28th May and a single adult with 'full spoons' north past Spurn on 2nd June. In a poor autumn only 67 were recorded from six sites, with two 'at sea' records off Bridlington. Numbers by site were as follows: Atwick, nine; Filey, 16; Flamborough, 33; Scarborough, one; South Gare, one; Spurn, eight. The first of the autumn was a returning adult past Spurn on 14th July, followed

by a sub-adult which lingered around Filey from 18th July until the 27th. No doubt the large numbers of gulls and terns predating fish close inshore suited the species' klepto-parasitic feeding habits. The remaining records were spread through August, September and October; in an autumn lacking strong northerlies, there was no particular peak passage. The first recorded juvenile went south at Spurn on 7th September. There were two records in November and the year's last was at Spurn on 8th December.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* **A**
UK BAP species: fairly common coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland
Breeds in occasionally in northern Scotland and widely around the Arctic and sub-Arctic, migrating along the Yorkshire coast and wintering at sea usually in the southern hemisphere, but some linger further north.

A single off Flamborough on 26th January was exceptional as it is very rare north of the Wash in the winter months. Between April and June there were 39 seen from the four main seawatching locations as follows: nine off Filey; eight at Flamborough; one at Scarborough and 21 off Spurn. The first was seen from Flamborough on 29th April and the peak passage period was over the last few days of May and the first few of June, with seven off Filey and Spurn on 30th May. In addition five were recorded off Redcar on 21st May.

Autumn numbers were disappointing with the editor of the Filey report commenting, *'Continued poor counts indicate a species in serious trouble; 395 bird/days constituted our second poorest year, following a meagre 237 bird/days in 2004 and 583 bird/days in 2005. It is sobering to note that as recently as 1996 a total of just less than 1000 bird/days was considered poor.'* The UK Seabird Monitoring Programme would give some support this theory, but evidence from elsewhere is contradictory *(Stroud et al 2001)*. The largest movements of the autumn were recorded during two brief periods. In mid-August Filey logged 78 south from 11th-14th and Flamborough recorded 44 on 11th and 50 on 13th. In early September 76 went south past Flamborough on 2nd September, a day when 63 also flew south past Long Nab, Scarborough. The movement continued the next day with 50 more past Flamborough. Filey then recorded 94 south on 7th September, with Spurn noting 78 the same day and another 57 on 8th. Light northerly winds on 16th September encouraged 54 to move south past Filey, the last significant movement of the autumn. These southerly movements were all associated with winds blowing from a northerly direction. Inland an adult dark phase flew over North Cave Wetland on 13th August when one also passed west over Blacktoft Sands and a single pale phase flew over Kex Gill, Bradford on 9th September. Not unexpectedly these records coincided with the two periods of greatest movement of the species on the coast. There were a few scattered coastal records in November, with the last past Flamborough on the late date of 3rd December.

Reference

Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds). 2001. *The UK SPA network: its scope and content.* JNCC, Peterborough.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* **A** 88,56,55,103,34
Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland
This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county. Increased observer awareness led to more records in the 1990s, but recent years have been relatively poor. Numbers depend on the Lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.

The first of the year were two sub-adults at Spurn on 23rd April which flew east from the Humber over the Narrows. On the 13th May an adult rested in Filey Bay early in the afternoon and later drifted south-east past the south cliffs at Flamborough.

In a poor autumn only 31 individuals were recorded, mostly from three coastal sites as follows: Filey nine; Flamborough 11; Spurn eight. In addition, a single passed Atwick on 13th August, with another at the same site on 1st September, followed by one at Ulrome on 15th September. The first was a sub-adult past Flamborough on 22nd July and the last, a juvenile, went north past Flamborough on 1st November. Adults and sub-adults predominated in August, but there was a very confiding juvenile at Filey on 23rd August. September records were mostly of juveniles and included the only inland record; a pale-headed juvenile at Filey Dams on 25th September which constituted the first site record.

Summary of Long-tailed Skua records at the main sites are tabulated. na = not aged.

Site

	3/8	12/8	13/8	14/8	23/8	25/8	26/8	27/8	28/8	31/8	7/9	15/9	16/9	25/9	26/9	9/10
Filey					1 juv	1 juv			1 ad		2 juv	1 juv	3 juv			
Flamboroughimm			1 ad	2 ad				1 juv		1 juv		1 juv				2 juv
Spurn		1 ad	1 ad				1 juv				1 ad	1 juv		2 na	1 juv	

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua* **A**
Amber list: fairly common to uncommon coastal passage migrant; rare inland
Breeds in Scotland, Iceland, the Faeroes and recently Scandinavia, migrating usually offshore to the seas off southern Europe.

An unremarkable year started with four south at Spurn on 21st January and one past Flamborough on 4th February. The first spring record flew out east from the Humber past Spurn on 11th April. There were 35 more individuals seen between then and the end of June, which included 27 at Flamborough, including six on 27th May. The most interesting record related to an individual that took up residence at Filey Brigg from 13th May and eventually departed on 31st July. Autumn passage was very disappointing with the best passage noted in mid-August; double figure counts from the four main seawatch sites on 12th August totaled 146 birds north, but are likely to contain duplication. However, 116 past Flamborough on 13th August was not reflected elsewhere, with just 19 at Scarborough and 17 off Spurn. Forty-three flew past Flamborough on 15th August. The highest count in September was a mere 29 south on 7th. Flamborough recorded up to 25 in a day during October and the year's last flew past Long Nab on 27th November.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini* **A** 15,16,22,11,5
Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter
This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles.

There were just five records of this oceanic gull, which is a poor showing compared to recent years. On 20th August there was an adult off Spurn (MJP) that spent ninety minutes just offshore. On 8th September one was reported off Hornsea. On 15th September, a juvenile fed off Filey Brigg from early evening until dusk and what was presumably the same bird flew north the next morning (PC *et al.*). In view of the scarcity of the species on the coast, a surprising record was a juvenile inland at Rother Valley CP for an hour from 0830hrs on 22nd September (RG). An adult on the sea off Beacon Ponds on 30th September constituted the year's last (TMc).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* **A**
Amber list: common coastal breeder and passage migrant; scarce inland
Breeds along the coasts of northern Europe and the Arctic.

The species is usually scarce on the coast in the winter months and Flamborough recorded fewer than 50 a day until mid March. There were very low numbers at Filey until 15 on 22nd February and then 29 on 11th March. Interestingly 11th March also produced birds inland with one at Southfield Reservoirs and a bird at Pugneys. 425 at Flamborough on 18th March indicated the spring return had commenced in earnest. 1060 at Spurn on 28th March was reflected inland with birds at Scaling Dam, 45; Swillington Ings, three; Wath, three which had arrived the previous day and most likely left on 29th; Wintersett, five. Other inland birds in spring were one at Wintersett on 26th February; one at Saltend, Hull on 25th March; one at Swillington Ings on 1st April; 2 at Southfield Reservoirs on 2nd April; and one at Southfield Reservoirs on 4th April. One was at Eccup Reservoir on 13th April; there was one at Wintersett on 9th May; one flew over Swillington Ings on 20th May and there were 25 adults at Wintersett on 26th May which left as soon as the rain stopped. During the breeding season there were 1450 – 1560 pairs on the Castle Cliffs at Scarborough and 4700 pairs on the cliffs between Hunt Cliff and Cowbar in the north of the county. Both these counts are lower than comparable observations at these sites in 2002 and 2005, the Scarborough colony now being about 15% smaller. There were no counts received for Bempton or other breeding sites this year. Filey reported good numbers of juveniles feeding with adults in the Bay in July and reports of breeding success from Scarborough were also encouraging. There were 1000 feeding off Filey Brigg on 11th July. The autumn departure began when 18000 were counted at Flamborough on 2nd August and on the same day 3420 an hour were moving north at Filey. Scarborough recorded 1500 moving north the next day. 1500 were counted in two hours moving past Scarborough on 11th August and Flamborough recorded 6500 on 17th August. There were 1000 at Spurn on 19th August and 600 there on 25th. 1000 were recorded past Scarborough on 26th August. 1426 were counted at Spurn on 8th September when there were 500 off Whitby. Thereafter small numbers were generally encountered around the coast although Flamborough continued to record hundreds on occasion with monthly maxima being: 329 on 29th October, up to 250 in November and an unusually high count of 430 on 3rd December. Inland in autumn and winter there were few records: one at Wintersett on 6th August; one at Southfield reservoirs on 27th September; one at Swillington Ings on 20th October; one at Green Withens Reservoir near Halifax on 12th November; one at Fairburn Ings on 26th November and finally one at Southfield Reservoirs on 8th December. A pure white, leucistic individual was seen well at Filey in late August, something to bear in mind to eliminate when identifying the rarer 'white' gulls.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* **A** 0,1,0,0,1

Vagrant; 5 previous records

An adult discovered at Saltburn on 13th November was initially only seen briefly. However, relocated on the beach the next day, it subsequently performed well before flying off inland (IK: ECP *et al.*). Study of photographs proved that this was the same individual present two weeks earlier at Newbiggin, Northumberland and it then returned north to Angus where it appeared a week after the Saltburn discovery; another example of how the modern-day phenomenon of digital images has assisted the identification of individual birds. This was the first since the well-watched first-summer at Fairburn Ings in May 2003.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* **A**

Amber list: common breeder and abundant in winter. BBS 59/192

A widespread and successful species, breeding from east Canada east through Britain and Europe to northeast China. As many as 1.9 million are thought to winter in Britain, with many immigrants from northern Europe and perhaps western Russia reaching Yorkshire.

Observers at Wintersett changed the method of counting and suggested previous years were likely to have under-estimated the numbers present. Monthly maximum counts from selected sites were as follows:

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Cononley Ings	170	150	500	500	400	17	18	2	1700	700	200	1,000
Eccup Reservoir	17,000	14,000	10,000	50	<10	<10	<10	900	5000	12,000	15,000	16,000
Filey	⊖	⊖	880	51	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	2500	325	⊖	⊖
Flamborough	50	50	55	133	<10	<10	127	118	765	845	100	106
Hornsea Mere	4500	⊖	135	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	350	⊖	2500	2800	⊖
Lingham Lake	⊖	32,000	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	17,000	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Pugneys C.P.	6000	3000	2000	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	1000	2000	3000
Scaling Dam	100	100	⊖	40	100	50	80	25	100	600	800	400
South Tees	414	741	2768	0	2	10	253	199	135	220	846	804
Spurn	120	382	1213	40	51	170	893	1000	3400	1,000	500	70
Tophill Low	3810	5400	3400	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	3000	⊖	1200	3200
Wath Ings	1200	1200	1000	1000	800	800	2000	800	700	1200	1200	1550
Wintersett	7000	3000	3000	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	500	1800	5000	10,000	20,000
Yeadon Tarn	10,000	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	7500	⊖	7500	⊖

⊖ no count recorded

Coastal peak numbers occur in autumn, whilst inland roost sites contain the highest numbers during the four winter months; however, roost sites near to significant breeding colonies can show a July peak. Other high counts recorded across the county were: 1,500 at Fairburn Ings on 5th February; 2,500 at Huxter Well Marsh, Potteric on 9th August; 1,200 in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 26th August and 2,300 in North Bay, Scarborough on 12th September; 2,000 at Baitings Reservoir on 14th December; 3,000 at Silsden Floods on 17th December; 3,400 at Embasy Res on 23rd December. Colonies vary in size from several hundred pairs at some gravel pits and reservoirs to small colonies of just five or ten pairs at moorland sites. Main breeding locations were: Brough Haven 25 pairs; Fairburn Ings 250 pairs, a decrease on 2005; Farnham G.P. 20 pairs, but wiped out by rats; North Cave 120 pairs raised many young; Potteric Carr held a number of breeding pairs; Pugneys 50 pairs, rearing just 40 young; Swillington Ings 280 pairs raised 400 young; Wath Ings 189 pairs raised 260 young; Wintersett 11 pairs, ten of which had their offspring destroyed by a single Carrion Crow; Thorne Moors up to 500 pairs.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds across Eurasia with birds dispersing in late July, entering the North Sea via the Baltic, and generally wintering south of England.

The first were three at Spurn on 21st January, followed by one there on 26th. The next was an adult north at Marine Drive, Scarborough on 18th March. There were relatively few through the spring, with a peak of just four at Hornsea Mere during April and a high of 12 at Spurn on 30th April. Only six other sites recorded singles

in April; Nosterfield NR on 19th; Tophill Low on 27th and 29th; North Cave on 29th/30th; Blacktoft Sands, Lingham Water and North Duffield Carrs all on 30th. During May up to three were recorded from a scattering of sites, with a similar pattern in June; most came from inland sites, with only Spurn regularly recording birds on the coast.

Numbers began to build along the coast in July, when 166 were recorded at Spurn on 6th and Flamborough had 34 on 15th, 15 at Filey the following day, with 396 the peak count at Hornsea Mere. Although scarce in the northern half of the county in August, there were sizeable counts from Flamborough southwards: 2300 off Atwick – Hornsea on 7th; Flamborough recorded 85 on 28th and 183 on 31st; 2500 at Hornsea Mere on 29th, but relatively few at Spurn. From the 29th August numbers built rapidly at Hornsea Mere, reaching a new UK record total of 16,000 on 2nd September. Two days later there were still 15,000, then 9000 remained on 15th, after which numbers fell to 500 by 25th. Significant numbers at Flamborough included: 2337 on 1st September; 1920 on 2nd; 475 on 3rd; 150 on 14th and 165 on 17th, while 1300 were at Bewholme on 11th September. Spurn began to record significant numbers later in September, with 300 on 24th increasing to 2000 by 29th, followed by 6000 there on 1st October. Flamborough had higher numbers again from 8th October with 374 on that day, then 522 on 9th, 758 on 21st and 200 on 22nd. By 25th October just three remained at Hornsea Mere. Towards the year end Flamborough had peaks of 41 on 25th November and 28 on 3rd December, while the last at Hornsea Mere was a single on 3rd December.

There were few records inland in autumn, one at Kelk from 12th–14th and a juvenile around Yeadon Tarn on 9th and 14th August were the only records for August, other than 94 at Paull Holme Strays on 4th, reducing to 17 there on 7th and five on 16th. In September a single was at Swillington Ings on 16th/17th. Tophill Low recorded 150 on 7th October with a single in the Lowthorpe/Harpham area on 13th the only other in October. One at Swillington Ings on 29th December was very unusual and the last were at Saltend on 30th December and another single at Tophill Low on New Year's Eve.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* **A**

Amber list: scarce visitor in all seasons; has attempted to breed

Breeding mainly in southeast and southern Europe, there has been an expansion northwest in recent years and numbers recorded in the county continue to increase.

One pair summered this year, but breeding was not suspected.

Records by main site are shown in the table.

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bradford area			2				3	2	1			2
Filey (individual birds)	2		1		1		1	2	1	1	1	
Flamborough	1			1		2	1	5	6	5	5	
Harrogate area		1	1						2	1	1	
Hornsea Mere	1								2	1	1	
Leeds area		1	2	2								
Paull Holme Strays							2	4	2	1		
Scaling Dam Reservoir	1			1	1			1	1	1	1	
Scarborough monthly max*	3	4	4	1		1	2	4	4	4	5	8
Southfield Res				2			1	2				
Spurn	1		5	3	1	2	3	3	4	2	1	1
Tophill Low	2	1	1	2	1			1		1	1	
Wath Ings			2			3	2					1
Wintersett	1					1		1	2			1

The table shows the best estimate of the number of individuals involved except at Scarborough where monthly maxima are given as several individuals at Holbeck are long-stayers or revisit regularly. The Serbian-ringed adult returned for its fourth consecutive winter. Across the county increasing numbers of juveniles are being recorded from July with late summer and early autumn becoming the peak period. However, many juveniles do linger around favoured sites and it is difficult to get a true picture of how many individuals are involved. Elsewhere, early in the year the species was regular at Saltburn where records of adults were believed to be attributable to just one or two individuals and adults were also recorded from nearby Cowbar and Redcar. There was a second-winter individual regularly at South Gare during the first three months of the year. An adult was at North Duffield Carrs on 17th January and at North Cave there was an adult on 31st January. An

adult roosted regularly at Broomhead Reservoir in the south of the county throughout January. An adult was in the roost at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir on two occasions in January and was last recorded on 10th February. Elsewhere in February there was a first winter at Castle Howard on 8th and one at Barmston on 9th. At Fairburn Ings an adult and a second calendar-year were seen sporadically through February, March and April. In spring further additional records included a second winter in fields near Glaisdale with hundreds of Common Gulls on 2nd April. A first-summer was found at Cononley Ings on 21st May and a first-summer was at North Cave on 29th May and an adult was at Fairburn Ings on 6th June. There then followed a pause until the influx of juveniles, with some adults began in July (see table above). Back in the north of the county this involved adults regularly at Saltburn and Redcar from 10th. Two adults were at Grimston on 9th August and next day a first calendar-year was at Ingbirchworth near Barnsley. An adult flew through Pulfin and High Eske Nature on 21st August, but surprisingly autumn records were largely restricted to the main sites listed above with only one at Withernsea on 26th September, a first-winter through Pugneys on 10th October, one at Holmpton on 14th October a first-winter at Bubwith on 27th October and an adult on the beach at East Newton on 3rd November excepting this rule. At the end of the year only one adult at North Cave on 6th December and one adult at Withernsea on 12th December were additional to the relatively low numbers then present at the main sites.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* **A**

Amber list: common to abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 12/192

Breeds in Scotland, and only common in Yorkshire outside the breeding season when continental migrants from Scandinavia and the Baltic states arrive from September through to December to winter. European breeding populations have been declining.

The monthly maxima from selected sites were as follows.

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blackmoorfoot	1100	1300	⊖	4	5	0	3	3	13	⊖	⊖	1800
Eccup Reservoir	6000	5000	4000	160	0	0	16	50	1000	4000	5000	5000
Filey	⊖	875	2210	⊖	60	⊖	⊖	⊖	1000	186	⊖	⊖
Flamborough	109	320	75	175	60	<20	<20	<20	573	250	850	750
Glaisdale	500	1100	28	200	0	0	0	0	0	250	1000	10
Hornsea Mere	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	4000	1200	⊖
Scaling Dam	1000	1000	⊖	30	12	10	2	20	20	5000	1500	2500
South Tees	20	365	1920	5	13	0	2	11	68	231	440	3461
Spurn	240	1110	559	260	130	23	150	1000	50	300	710	240
Tophill Low	22,000	16,500	12,660	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	3000	⊖	1475	5200
Wintersett	1000	⊖	50	<10	<10	<10	⊖	⊖	⊖	1000	1800	1820

These counts are an assortment of roost counts from the reservoirs, passage and roost counts from coastal locations and counts of birds feeding in fields from one inland site. The counts from Tophill Low dwarf those from other sites in the first part of the year; it has long held a large roost of the species, although the number of individuals there varies enormously from year to year and season to season. The January maximum from Tophill was twice the highest count from 2005. There were a number of additional sites where substantial counts were made on an occasional basis. These included 5500 on the Derwent Ings on 1st January; 1000 at Thornton Moor Reservoir, Bradford also on 1st January with 1500 there three weeks later. In the Harrogate area there were 1300 at Grimwith Res on 2nd January, 800 at Gouthwaite Res on 29th January, followed by 2000 at Lingham Water on 19th February, with 1500 there on 26th. There were fewer large counts in the second part of the year but 2000 at Hellifield Flats, Skipton was a notable count on 15th December. Spurn reported strong spring passage but very weak autumn movement, however, the data from Flamborough (see summary above) which refers mostly to passage birds, indicates quite strong autumn passage and comments from that site indicate that numbers through the year were quite high, with particularly good numbers in November.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; fairly common passage migrant/increasing winter visitor. BBS 21/192

The form *graellsii* occasionally breeds in Yorkshire at inland sites and on coastal rooftops in Scarborough, Filey and Bridlington. This race also breeds in Western Europe, Greenland, Iceland and the Faeroes as well as northern

Britain, and migrates through the county to winter to the south, usually returning in March. The race *intermedius* breeds in Denmark, southern Norway and Sweden and occurs in small numbers on passage.

There were small numbers at the beginning of the year with, for example, only the occasional bird at Spurn and with a maximum of fewer than ten at Eccup Reservoir prior to the beginning of spring passage in February. Inland passage was considered poor in the Leeds area with a peak of 31 on 31st March at Eccup and there were rarely more than 100 individuals noted at nearby Swillington Ings. However in the Bradford area there was an April peak of 220 at Cullingworth, with a maximum of 360 at that site in June. Elsewhere inland, Redmires Reservoirs held just 28 on 27th May and there were 38 at Potteric Carr on 5th June. Passage on the coast was considered good at Spurn with 527 recorded flying south between 15th February and 15th June, with peak counts in the last two weeks of May including a maximum of 74 on 19th. However, good numbers continued to be recorded on the Humber where up to 60 could be seen in June and July. These good numbers would correspond with recording from Flamborough where passage in June and early July was strongest with 69 on 25th June and 52 on 1st July. Breeding season records came as usual from Filey where there were thought to be at least three pairs, Scarborough where there were a number of pairs scattered at nine sites through the town on rooftops and Hull where breeding was proven on an incomplete survey of favoured factory roofs. In autumn there was an early high count of 390 at Wykeham near Scarborough on 18th July. 220 was the maximum recorded at Thornton Moor near Bradford in August and 560 on 27th August was a high early autumn count at Wintersett. There were 126 at Southfield Reservoirs on 11th September. Numbers at Wykeham peaked with 740 on 18th September, dwindling to 102 on 3rd December. Redmires Reservoirs showed a similar pattern although with a later peak there were 120 on 17th August, 395 on 5th September rising to 440 on 19th September and then 520 on 7th October with 760 the next day, but numbers were down to 250 by 21st October. The peak at nearby Langsett Reservoir was 800 on 8th October. Counts at Wintersett confirmed the movement in early October with numbers there rising to 585 on 8th October. Birds corresponding in appearance to the darker *intermedius* subspecies were reasonably frequent through June, July and August at Flamborough with peaks of eight in a day, but uncommon elsewhere. At Filey there was a significant arrival on 1st November during a northerly gale when most of 26 individuals could be ascribed to this race and these birds lingered, with 15 present the next day and one staying into December. At Wykeham there were 26 of this race counted on 9th November. At Eccup Res only seven *intermedius* birds were noted during the year.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP subspecies (*argenteus*)

Fairly common resident breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 28/192

The race *argenteus* breeds in Britain and Ireland, including along the Yorkshire coast from where it disperses mostly locally. Distribution in BBS squares represents mostly dispersed non-breeders.

This species has shown a marked decline over recent years at inland sites. Where once flocks of several hundred were a common feature now ten or more are notable and is a reflection of the closure of many tips; now hard to locate in both the Bradford and Halifax areas. In the Leeds area the Leventhorpe Tip continues to hold 1,000 birds regularly with 2,000 exceptionally, but these birds have abandoned the traditional roost sites. On the coast the species appears to increasingly nest in towns, but there are indications that it is declining within the cliff colonies. However, BTO Breeding Bird Survey data does not indicate a decline of this species' breeding numbers in the county. Numbers are still too high for many coastal town residents, as it is very noisy species early in the morning and their habit of strafing shoppers with excrement is decidedly unpopular. Nesting continues to be controlled in some areas by oiling of eggs. Few breeding season counts were received, but 320 pairs nested on the cliffs east of Saltburn. The table below gives data from four recording areas which submitted complete or incomplete data.

Monthly maxima at selected sites as follows:

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Filey	⊖	1100	⊖	⊖	220	200	320	⊖	810	⊖	⊖	⊖
Kettleness	⊖	⊖	⊖	15	50	⊖	⊖	⊖	150	100	1000	⊖

⊖ no count recorded

Elsewhere Southfield Reservoir was host to more than 550 on 10th February. There were 4,000 at Seamer Tip on 4th September, which proved to be the largest count of the year.

Larus argentatus argentatus

Small numbers were recorded at Flamborough in January – March, while 25% of birds moving north past Filey on 27th February belonged to this race, a higher proportion than the normal 5% present. The first autumn bird was recorded at Flamborough on 3rd September with a peak of 43 there on 2nd November. In past winters the majority in West Yorkshire was considered to be *L.a.argentatus,* but regrettably few observers chose to separate this race this year; it would be interesting to see if the proportion of each race had changed in light of the evident decline.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* **A**

Uncommon summer visitor and migrant

Breeds in southern Europe. Numbers reported from the county seem to have stabilised in recent years now that observers are familiar with its identification, but more are being reported from the north of the county.

The identification of immatures is not straightforward and although now well established as an uncommon visitor, mostly through the summer and autumn, caution still needs to be exercised with such plumages. Some of the best places to catch up with the species are inland waterbodies such as: Swillington Ings, where 32 records probably related to 12 individuals; around Cullingworth and Thornton Moor Res, near Bradford, where 39 records related to at least 14 individuals; and at Wintersett, which held birds regularly from 30th July to 27th December including a maximum of 11 on 16th October.

In the first winter period Wintersett attracted an adult on 2nd January, followed by a first-winter on 25th January and an adult again on 26th February. A second-calendar year bird was at Swillington Ings on 4th February, with a similarly aged immature near Queensbury on 25th March and an adult was at Skelton Lake, on 28th March. Most were found during June, July and August with smaller number in September and in the late autumn. Away from West Yorkshire there were a scattering of records elsewhere, with Wykeham Lakes and Southfield Reservoir supplying a number of records. This species remains uncommon along the coast north of Flamborough, as illustrated by Filey recording its first ever when a bird in its fourth-calendar year was found at the Dams on 26th August. Spurn logged at least nine individuals, none of which were claimed from seawatching. Like other large gulls some individuals are faithful to a particular site; an adult regularly returns to the Tees Barrage in the far north of the county and another has been found year after year along the Humber near Spurn. The last were an adult at Wykeham Lakes on 3rd December and a first-winter at Wintersett on 27th December.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* 2,2,4,2,3

Extremely rare visitor: 12 previous records

Caspian Gull breeds in the Caspian and Black Sea areas, but has recently expanded its breeding range to Poland. It is now regularly reported from south-east England, but in much smaller numbers than *michahellis.*

Only three acceptable records received for a species than remains difficult to identify, with four others considered not proven. A third-summer discovered in fields at Kilnsea on 23rd July was subsequently photographed (GCT); a juvenile was in the roost at Wykeham Lakes on 14th September (NWA); finally, a second-winter was photographed as it attended the roost at Redmires Reservoir on 1st, 15th and 19th October (RDH).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* **A**

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland. All records refer to first-year birds unless otherwise stated.

The first was an adult at Spurn which flew south on 13th January; the first of only three January records, while numbers peaked across the county during March. Two interesting records on 5th March presumably related to the same individual; one north-west over Old Moor and Broomhill village at 1435hrs and a bird coming from the south and leaving to the north-west over Wintersett at 1545hrs. The last of spring included an adult at Spurn on 1st May, a second-summer at Filey Dams on the same date and finally, a first-winter at Filey on 5th May. First to return was an adult that roosted at Swillington Ings on 23rd and 26th November, with the last a second-winter in the gull roost at Southfield Res on 30th December.

The table summarises records on a monthly basis, with some duplication possible as individuals moved between sites.

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Records	3	8	21	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
individual birds	3	8	11	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* **A**

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and has in the past been more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, particularly on the coast, but recently this has not been the case. All records relate to birds in first- or second-winter plumage unless stated otherwise.

This species has become very uncommon in the county and there were only twenty records during the year, attributed to perhaps as few as six individuals. A first-winter roosted at Scaling Dam on 5th January. It is likely that this same individual was the bird seen north of the Tees on 11th and then again roosted at Scaling Dam on 23rd to 25th January. A first-winter flew north past Flamborough on 8th January. On 9th February a first-winter was in the Seamer Tip area of Scarborough and this bird may have been one of two first-winter birds which flew north past Filey on the morning of 10th February during a northerly movement of the larger gulls. A first-winter flew south over the Humber at Spurn on 13th February. A second-winter was seen by the Gallymoor landfill site at Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 16th March. A first-winter was on the tank blocks at Spurn on 28th April and another first-year was at Spurn on 14th June and it is most likely that this individual was seen three days later at Filey on 17th June.

In the autumn a second/third-year was at Cayton Carr, Scarborough on 2nd September. A bird aged as a first-year was at Beacon Ponds, Spurn on 30th September before flying south over the Humber. In the late autumn/second winter period it was only recorded from the Holderness coast; a second-winter on Hornsea beach from 17th-22nd November was also at Hornsea Mere on 19th and 25th. Two unaged sub-adults were on Hornsea beach on 21st November and were on the Mere on 22nd. A first-winter was at Grimston on 3rd December and a first-winter was present at Hornsea Mere on 10th and 22nd December and this individual was then seen at Hornsea North Cliff on 24th December.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* **A**

Fairly common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding resident. BBS 5/192

The British population breeds on northern and western coasts. We have a continual presence due to immatures summering and adults wintering, probably from Scandinavia.

This species appears to be in decline in the county and it is now an uncommon sight inland in most localities. Any large numbers inland are usually associated with roosts on water bodies. Reduced numbers are also being recorded on the coast. However, this year a pair attempted to breed on a roof in Scarborough, no young were seen so the attempt was believed to be unsuccessful. Usually the greatest numbers are recorded at the beginning and end of the year, this year Flamborough recorded summer peaks of 605 on 15th July and 1670 on 16th July, counts which would appear to buck this trend. The pattern of South Tees and Spurn WeBS counts demonstrate a more expected seasonal pattern.

Site

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
South Tees	222	29	66	8	62	43	15	161	326	310	201	541

Elsewhere the largest numbers on the coast were recorded at Filey where there were 110 on the Brigg End on 8th October and then 285 on the rocky shelf below the Blue Dolphin on 5th November. The species was also recorded moving south at the Long Nab, Scarborough in the autumn with 150 on 2nd September, 200 on 29th October and 200 on 27th November. Inland, many sites were struggling to record double-figures with a maximum of nine at Eccup Reservoir, Leeds where the species was recorded on only fourteen dates and in the Bradford area there were only 13 reports of a total of 17 birds. However, up to 300 could be found around the Leventhorpe Tip, Leeds at the beginning and end of the year and in the Harrogate area 182 were counted at Nosterfield Nature Reserve on 7th January with 70-90 there in February and March. Nearby Bar Lane Quarry attracted many in the winter months with 100 flying over Farnham GP to roost there on 31st December. Wath

Ings recorded 235 on 24th January and there was a maximum of 140 at that site in February, whilst at Wintersett 130 on 2nd January was the maximum in the first part of the year and following a slow build up during the later months, a maximum of 81 was recorded on 31st December. Wykeham Lakes, near Scarborough was the inland site with the largest count; there were 460 in the roost on 9th February and numbers remained high there in the early part of the year, with 160 still present on 14th May.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* **A**

Amber list: scarce and localised breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

The nominate race breeding in Britain and Ireland winters off the coast of Africa.

Two at Spurn on 18th April were the first to return and then ever present there until 15th August. At South Gare the first two were seen on 23rd April, with a peak there of 50 on 21st May. Elsewhere there was a scattering of spring records; with two past Flamborough on 6th May, one inland at Wintersett on 7th May and two south through North Cave Wetlands on 21st May constituted the first site record, demonstrating how uncommon the species is inland. A single flew through Fairburn Ings on 4th June. The only breeding attempts this year came from two sites in the Spurn area. At Easington there were 20 birds around the colony during the second half of April and during May. The first eggs were laid on 2nd June and the number of pairs continued to build, until there were 50 nests at the end of June when the first eggs started to hatch. A total of 51 nests were built and the maximum count of adults present was unsurprisingly 102. However, on 6th July a thunderstorm struck and a fox entered the colony and this combination was responsible for reducing the 13 chicks and 42 eggs down to four chicks and a few surviving eggs; eventually only four chicks fledged from the colony. At Spurn ten pairs attempted to nest at two different sites along the peninsular, with five pairs at each site. Two pairs successfully fledged three young at Chalk Bank, the first Little Terns to successfully breed on Spurn for many years. In July one was at Swillington Ings on 17th and one went past Filey on 20th followed by three past Filey on 29th. In August several birds were logged past Flamborough: a single on 5th; two on 17th; three on 22nd; a single on 30th. Unusually a juvenile joined the tern flock on Filey Brigg on 1st and stayed until 3rd September. A single flew through the Calder Wetlands, Pugneys CP on 3rd September. Filey's last was on 9th September which was the final date of regular sightings at Spurn, with the last at Spurn on 29th and 30th September.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* **A**

Uncommon passage migrant in varying numbers

The commonest of the marsh terns; it nests across Europe (not Britain) and winters in Africa.

In a rather average year, the first was one at Pulfin & High Eske on 21st April; the earliest site record by four days. There was a single bird at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd May, with two at Spurn on 4th when there were also five briefly at Fairburn Ings and three at Rother Valley CP. One was at Tophill Low on 5th May, followed by three at Spurn and six through Lingham Lake the next day and then a single at Rother Valley CP on 7th. The next was recorded at North Cave Wetlands on 8th May and there were singles at Southfield Reservoir and Wintersett the following day. On the 11th May there were two at Lowther Lake, one at nearby Swillington Ings and another at Fairburn Ings that remained for three days. The next day there were three at Hornsea Mere. In June there was a singles at: Swillington Ings on 4th; Wintersett on 9th; Spurn on 15th; Swillington Ings on 18th; and Nosterfield on 25th.

Two at Fairburn Ings were early on 1st July, quickly followed by one at Flasks Lake on 3rd July. Ten at Tophill Low on 22nd July indicated the beginning of a more significant autumn passage. Birds were recorded in the evening tern roost movements at Spurn on a daily basis from 26th July, when the first returning bird there flew south; peak numbers were 25 on 20th August, 21 on 1st September, 27 on 3rd and 21 on 5th September. Filey witnessed a similar pattern, with the first three juveniles arriving on 7th August and maxima of nine on 28th August and 13 on 4th September, this last count included one adult. Passage at Hornsea Mere began on 13th August and continued to 23rd September, with peaks of seven on 13th/14th August. Elsewhere the species was recorded in small numbers along the coast from Flamborough, Scarborough and the South Gare. Inland Rother Valley CP held a single on 8th August, with singles at Fairburn Ings on 18th and 24th August. There was a juvenile at Farnham GP on 20th August. A count of 15 at Southfield Reservoir on 27th August, with one there next day was more significant. Swillington Ings also hosted a juvenile on 27th August. Two juveniles were at Wintersett on 5th/6th September, followed by one at Whiteholme Reservoir, near the Lancashire border, on 9th September. From 14th September until 1st October at least one remained in residence at Rother Valley Country Park. There was an adult at Wintersett and one at Wykeham Lakes on 28th September and the year's last flew south at Spurn on 5th October.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Rare migrant; 63 previous records (58 birds) 1,1,5,0,3

A summer plumage bird was on Broomhill Flash during the afternoon of the 26th May, roosting overnight before leaving east at 0850hrs the following morning (JMT *et al.*).

A juvenile was discovered on Hornsea Mere at 1535hrs on 6th August and was still present at the east end of the Mere the following day (TC *et al.*). A moulting adult landed on Filey Brigg at 1940hrs on 7th August and then remained until dusk (CCT *et al.*). This bird was no doubt attracted to the large feeding frenzy off Filey Brigg that was attracting large numbers of gull, gannets and terns, including a country record tally of Roseates. Amazingly, identified by several distinctive plumage features, the same individual was relocated at Minsmere, Suffolk at 1200hrs the next day.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* **A**

Amber list: fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor. BBS 1/192

The currently increasing western European population of the nominate race winters off West Africa.

The first were at Atwick and Filey on a relatively late 'first' date of 27th March. These were followed by two at Fairburn Ings on 31st and one there and another at Swillington Ings the next day. Spring passage at Flamborough began on 2nd April with peaks of 50 on 22nd April, 72 on 30th April and 116 on 5th May. At Filey there was an interesting southerly movement in mid-May with 168 on 13th, 97 on 15th and 124 on 20th; there were also 40 at Sandsend, Whitby on 14th. More inland spring records included one at Pugneys CP on 18th April, three north at Southfield Res on 25th April and one at Blacktoft Sands on 14th/15th May. June was a quieter month, with a single at Potteric Carr on 4th June and two at Blacktoft Sands on 8th, with one there the next day. Forty were recorded at Barmston on 9th June and there was a peak of 104 at Flamborough on 25th June.

Numbers increased in July with post-breeding feeding movements and juveniles swelling the numbers; 96 past Long Nab on 2nd heralded the start. Peaks at Flamborough in July were of 282 on 15th, 338 on 16th, 306 on 23rd and 300 on 30th. Filey's July maximum was 190 north on 16th July, while Spurn recorded a peak of 228 on 28th July, an increase on last year. Inland two were at Potteric Carr on 16th July. During August there was a further scattering of inland records with two at Grimwith Reservoir on 12th and one west over Old Moor on 22nd. Filey reported very low numbers in July, despite high numbers of other *Sterna* terns and a plentiful food supply, whilst at Flamborough there were 405 on 10th and 450 at Barmston 450. During September migratory activity built up over the first two weeks with 100 past Kettleness Point on 3rd, counts at Spurn of 213 on 5th and 527 on 6th, 210 south at Filey on 7th September and 108 past Flamborough on 9th. North of the county boundary 1,550 moved south in one hour on 14th and these numbers were reflected within Yorkshire over subsequent days; 159 were off Flamborough on 15th September, with an additional 150 the following day. Unsurprisingly peak activity along the coast was reflected inland with: one at Lingham Lake on 2nd; three at Fairburn Ings on 3rd with one there the next day, one mobbed by House Martins near Penny Pot Lane, Harrogate on 5th; and a single through Blacktoft Sands on 9th. October began with 63 south past Long Nab on 1st when there were 75 past Flamborough, 40 lingering around Filey Brigg and 57 past Kettleness Point. Numbers reduced substantially through to the month end, with two at Filey on 22nd and two off Flamborough on 28th. Inland there was an adult and juvenile at Southfield Reservoir on 5th October. Although it usually lingers along the coast into November, one inland at Wintersett from 9th to 16th was unusual. The year's last was a first-winter south into Filey Bay on 25th November.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant. BBS 2/192

British birds of this Holarctic species winter along the West African coast. The small breeding population in the county has increased, taking the opportunities offered of newly formed islands and tern rafts on reserves.

The first of the year was seen at Fairburn Ings on 27th March, an early date. Another early individual was at Treeton Dyke, Sheffield on 2nd April. The next was at Pugneys on 11th April where there were two on 13th and one on 16th.There was one at Spurn and two at Swillington Ings on 15th April. Small numbers were then widespread across the county from 20th April. During the breeding season there were 55 pairs at eleven sites across the county as follows.

Site

	First date	Number of pairs	Possible additional pairs	Young fledged	Last date
Fairburn Ings	27-03-06	10	–	Unknown	07-09-06
Farnham GP	22-04-06	2	–	4	09-08-06
North Cave	22-04-06	6	–	10	03-09-06
Otley Wetland	26-04-06	1	–	1	–
Pugneys	11-04-06	6		4+	05-09-06
Ripon Racecourse Quarry	–	1	–	2	11-08-06

There were some spectacular numbers of this species seen across the county in the autumn beginning with 5000 in the mouth of the River Tees in the far north of the county on 22nd August. Filey recorded 1200 on 26th August rising to 2300 by the afternoon of 2nd September and by dusk that day a vast feeding flock stretched across Filey Bay. Flamborough had 1100 on 27th August and 1684 the next day, rising to 5290 on 1st September with 2580 the following day and 2000 on 3rd September. 1720 went south at the Long Nab, Scarborough on 2nd September and 900 roosted at Scalby Mills that evening. 2000 passed Atwick on 2nd September with 1000 between Atwick and Barmston the next day. Kettleness recorded 1500 on 3rd September. However, numbers at Spurn were on a different scale beginning with 1000 at the end of July there were then nine counts of more than 10,000 between early August and early September with high counts of 22,500 on 19th August and 30,000 on 20th August. From mid-September numbers fell quickly as birds departed south. The last birds for the year were one at Spurn on 22nd October and a juvenile lingering at Filey from 27th to 29th October.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* **A** 36,81,87,122

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn

A widespread species that breeds in the Americas, north-west Europe, southern Africa, through the Indian Ocean to Australasia.

This attractive tern graced the county on just one day in spring with three at Nosterfield NR on 7th May (MB: PKB: RTP: MT: SPW); a new species for the Harrogate recording area.

However, it was a record autumn following two adults off Filey on 10th July. In total Filey recorded 242 bird-days, with daily sightings between 7th August and 4th September and Spurn logged 142 bird-days in a similar period. A county record 29 roosted on Filey Brigg on 1st September, whilst Spurn recorded a maximum of 23 on 6th September. Late records included an adult and juvenile off Filey Brigg on 28th September, with the last at Spurn the following day.

Inland there was just a single autumn record when one was at Fairburn Ings on 14th August (BV).

Summary of Roseate Tern numbers at the main sites during autumn

Site

	10/7	14/7	17/7	01/8	03/8	07/8	13/8	22/8	24/8	28/8	01/9	02/9	03/9	04/9	05/9	06/9	07/9
Filey	2 ad	0	0	0	0	3 (1)	P	P	11	23 (8)	29 (10)	21	12	11	0	0	0
Flamborough	0	2 ad	0	0	2 ad	0	1 (1)	1 (1)	0	0	1 ad	2 ad	0	2 ad	3 ad	1 ad	2 (2)
Scarborough	0	0	0	0	1 ad	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 (2)	4 (1)	0	0	0	0

P = birds present; ad = adult; (3) indicates the number of juveniles included in the total given above; otherwise numbers are total number of birds of any age.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor

Breeds in northern Europe and the Arctic and winters at sea, making a journey between the two polar regions. Migrates across the county in spring, many leaving via the Humber.

Three passed Marine Drive, Scarborough on the very early date of 8th April. Five then moved out of the Humber going east on 16th April, when there was also one at Farnham GP, with another at the latter location on 22nd April. From 23rd April the species was seen daily at Spurn until 7th May and there were some exceptionally high counts of birds moving east including 276 on 27th April, 226 the following day, 974 on 30th followed by 318 on 1st May. Elsewhere across the county there were much smaller numbers, but with records from a number of inland sites on 23rd April including 14 at Tophill Low, one at Wath Ings, four at Rother Valley Country Park, seven at Farnham GP and at Fairburn Ings, where the species had been present since 21st. Southfield Res recorded four on 26th April and other sites had ones and twos during the last few days of April. At Flamborough the late April movements at Spurn were reflected on a smaller scale with 12 on 29th and 52 on 30th. From the beginning of May the species was recorded at a number of inland waters, including on 1st: four at Swillington Ings, three at Skelton Lake, 12 through Wath Ings, six over the main lake at Pugneys, three at Wintersett, at least 14 through Rother Valley CP, with two at nearby Thrybergh Country Park. Then on 4th May there were 15 through Southfield Res and four through Hornsea Mere that evening. On 7th May 33 flew west over Lingham Water, Harrogate, there were at least four at Rother Valley Country Park, two at Southfield Res and 14 at Fairburn Ings. Small numbers were then seen up and down the coast and inland until the end of May, with an exceptional 29 flying north at Pulfin Bog on 27th. The species was uncommon in June with one to five at Spurn early in the month and one over Scalby Lodge Pond on 12th. The autumn build up began in July and thereafter the species was much more common on the coast and very infrequently recorded inland. Peak counts from key coastal sites were as follows:

Site

	01/8	02/8	03/8	05/8	06/8	09/8	13/8	14/8	20/8	24/8	01/9	02/9
Filey	⊖	30	75	⊖	⊖	40		42	⊖	73	100	⊖
Flamborough	⊖	⊖	⊖	49	55	⊖	476	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	17

⊖ no count available

During September there were small numbers remaining on the coast with only single figure counts at Spurn from mid-month and a similar pattern at the other coastal sites. Inland there were few indeed, single figure counts only made up the two July records, twelve August records and just three records, all at Wintersett, during September. In October there was one at Wath Ings on 14th. The last at Spurn was on 13th October, a juvenile went past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 25th and there were four past Flamborough on 29th. The last of the year was a juvenile at Filey on 4th November.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder and passage migrant, less so in winter. BBS 1/192

A common seabird of the northern temperate oceans, susceptible to oiling.

No detailed breeding records received, but it appears to be maintaining numbers at Flamborough. Good counts recorded from all the regular coastal sites including: 22,000 at Flamborough on 15th January; 1853 south past Filey in two hours on 11th February and 1500 past Long Nab on 14th May. A count of *c.*1400 was in the mouth of the River Tees at the end of July, with 820 still there in early September. A feeding flock of 4000, mostly Guillemots was between Cloughton Wyke and North Bay, Scarborough on 26th August, while on the same day an impressive 11,600 were on the sea at Filey and a raft of 3000 Guillemot/Razorbill were feeding on a large shoal of fish in the Bay on 19th September. Spurn's highest count was 363 on 13th September.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* **A**

Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder/passage migrant, less common in winter. BBS 1/192

Breeds in the North Atlantic: the subspecies *islandica* found in Britain winters further south.

The only breeding record received was from the north of the county, where up to 60 were on the breeding cliffs at Cowbar. At Scarborough 150 were counted on 14th May, 330 went north in one hour on 14th September, 200 were on the sea there on 19th September and 900 went south on 1st October. Filey's best counts involved 1200 south in one hour on 24th September; these southerly movements continued into October, with 1500 on 3rd and 300 on 7th. The highest totals at Flamborough were 2135 on 22nd September and 4000 on 1st October. Further down the coast at Spurn, counts included 315 on 2nd and 250 on 9th October.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* **A**

Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant/ winter visitor

This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea. The numbers recorded each year will clearly involve some double counting.

The only records in the first period were at Filey, when 32 flew south in light south-westerly winds on 11th February and a single landed in front of the sea-watching hut next day.

The autumn's first flew south past Filey on 20th October, with the next north at Spurn on 24th, followed by 24 on 25th; this included one that hit a car near the Church. On 26th, 12 were noted at Spurn and three at Filey, followed by single-figure counts to the month end from the usual sea-watching sites. Then a good movement occurred between 1st and 4th November, with Flamborough typically producing the highest counts: 873 on 1st, 3927 on 2nd, 233 on 3rd, and 53 on 4th. Between Atwick and Barmston 139 passed on 1st, 1472 on 2nd and 11 in one hour on 3rd. Spurn recorded 314 on 1st, 1068 on 2nd, 76 on 3rd, and six on 4th, while Filey had 36 on 1st, 752 on 2nd, 34 on 3rd and 20 on 4th. Scarborough's counts included 45 on 1st, 1092 on 2nd and 23 on 3rd. Subsequent records were few, with Flamborough having a further five on three dates in November, one was in Filey Bay on 15th and Spurn had 16 on six further dates in November. Two north at Spurn on 10th December were the last of the year.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* **A**

Amber list: fairly common breeder and common passage migrant

Breeds on the coasts of northern France, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland and the Arctic. Winters well out to sea.

Ten at Filey on 18th February were the first, followed by 613 the next day at Flamborough; then regular along the coast to mid-October, with just a few sightings in November and December.

The highest counts at Long Nab were 87 north in three hours on 25th June and 28 north on 12th August. There were just two September records, with singles on 19th and 22nd. At Filey numbers peaked mid-summer, with a count of 510 north in one hour on 12th July. Late autumn records included two on 26th November and singles off the Brigg and off Reighton on 26th December were unusual. At Flamborough 1,111 were seen on 6th May, while the summer peaks were 8700 on 14th and 4600 on 31st July; 8,400 on 1st August, and 6600 on 8th, but had subsided to singles by 15th August. Small numbers were then seen occasionally until December. Low counts were logged at Spurn between late May and December, with a high of ten on 4th December.

FERAL PIGEON/ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* **AC4**

A common breeding resident in towns and cities and along coastal cliffs

BBS 63/192: -13% (-14) decrease 1994-2006, -6% (-14) decrease 2005-06

Very few large counts were received, but present in most towns and cities across the county. Most inland flocks were of less than 80 birds, the highest were 160 at North Cave on 4th July and 360 there on 22nd August, 98 at Broomhill Ings on 19th September and 160 at Holtby on 12th November. Small numbers resembling 'true stock' still survive on the cliffs at Scarborough, Filey, Bempton and Flamborough. The most notable counts also came from these sites: at Long Nab counts included 300 on 21st August and 350 on 13th October, while Filey had up to 250 on the Top Fields during September. Two hundred were counted at Bempton Cliffs on 4th April and Flamborough had 690 on 26th March and 950 on 14th October.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* **A**

Amber list: fairly common resident; some passage and immigration

BBS 50/192: 116% (2) increase 1994-2006, 4% (-4) increase 2005-06

Local populations are sedentary, although Scandinavian birds may swell numbers in winter.

High counts early on included: 39 at Thrybergh CP on 5th January; 70 on The Mere at Broomhill Ings on 8th January; 28 at Potteric Carr also on 8th; 51 at Southfield Res on 23rd January; 31 at Hunshelf on 26th January; 43 at Flamborough on 28th January and 22 near Leeds/Bradford Airport on 31st January. The Mayfield Valley, Sheffield produced 104 on 2nd February and 108 on 4th March, 170 were at Skipton SF on 18th February and 36 were at Luddenden Dean, near Halifax on 25th February.

Spring passage at Spurn was good with 476 moving south and 27 U-turning between 15th February and 12th June. Peak movement occurred between late March and early April, with high counts of 151 on 26th and 60 on 29th March, followed by 49 on 1st April and 63 the following day.

Breeding was reported from many sites, particularly in East and South Yorkshire and included several pairs probably breeding at Filey, three pairs at Wintersett, three pairs at Broomhill Ings, two pairs in the Little Don Valley. Single breeding pairs were also reported from Spurn, Thrybergh CP, and Ecclesall Woods and Wharncliffe Side, Sheffield.

A high mid-summer count of 110 came from Skipton SF on 22nd July. Autumn passage at Spurn was light with 145 flying south and 38 U-turning between 9th September and 9th December. The only noteworthy count was 70 south and 23 U-turning on 5th November. Gatherings in the final quarter of the year included: 160 at Fairburn Ings on 5th October, with 150 there on 2nd December; 58 at Wintersett on 5th November; 180+ in fields east of Southfield Res on 10th November; 60 in Givendale, Harrogate on 13th November; 116 at Broomhill Ings on 3rd December and 50 at Thrybergh CP on 17th December.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident and passage migrant/winter visitor

BBS 162/192: 44% (28) increase 1994-2006, -14% (6) decrease 2005-06

Peak counts in the first period included: 1,100 roosting at Cowick Gorse, near Southfield Res on 1st January; 750 at Broomhill Ings on 8th; 2,800 in the Idle Valley on 18th; 1,150 at Beal Carrs on 4th February; 1,000 at Ulley CP on 11th; 700 at Thrybergh CP on 25th February; 1,000 at Melton Woods on 4th March and 1200 at Staveley NR on 5th March. Spring passage was generally quiet, although 425 were at Flamborough on 29th March and 642 south at Spurn on 1st April and 757 south the following day.

Autumn coastal passage was negligible; with 180 at Spurn on 13th October and 200 at Flamborough on 28th October the highest counts at those sites. However bigger numbers were recorded along the Pennines; in the Halifax area 2,200 flew west at Northowram on 1st November, 300 flew west at Walshaw Dean on 3rd and 500 flew west at Blake Dean on 9th. Large numbers moved south/south-west over Sheffield: with 9500 over Redmires Res on 25th October, followed by 8405 on 27th, 12,900 on 29th and 3,000 on 30th October. While nearby Rod Moor recorded the following: 14,900 on 29th October; 23,460 on 1st November and 10,500 the following day. The last large movements included 3,100 over Strines and 798 over Sandwith Moor on 19th November. In the lowlands 2,123 south over Potteric Carr on 29th October was a good count. There were very few large counts of feeding or roosting flocks in the final quarter, although 750 were at Harewood Park on 6th November and 1,500 at Southfield Res on 9th December.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* **A**

Common resident. BBS 81/192: 4% (41) increase 1994-2006, 5% (3) increase 2005-06

Having arrived in Britain in 1952, this species continues to expand in the north-west of Britain, but its population in Yorkshire is now fairly constant.

Unlike 2005 there were several treble-figure counts: 120 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd August, 109 at Beighton Marsh NR on 4th October and 100 at Broomhill Ings on 21st October was the maximum there, with regular totals of up to 90 birds. Genuine migrants that moved south at Spurn Point included six on 3rd May and 14 on 27th May.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce and declining breeding summer visitor. BBS 4/192

The West European populations migrate south-west to winter in the drought-stricken Sahel zone. The national population has fallen by 44% since 1994, contracting eastward and southward and it is becoming increasingly scarce in Yorkshire.

The first flew north over North Cave Wetlands on 29th April. The stronghold for this species is now the East Riding; Spurn had the largest numbers, including nine on 17th May and 11 on 19th and 25th, with two pairs staying to breed. Around ten pairs were believed to have bred in the Hull Valley Wildlife Group recording area, with seven seen at Kiplingcotes in May. Away from East Yorkshire, the population at Wintersett continues to fall, down from eight pairs last year to just three this. Very few other sites had more than a handful of records including Fairburn Ings, Potteric Carr NR, Blacktoft Sands, Southfield Res., Flamborough, Filey, Mickletown Ings, Pulfin Bog, Wykeham and Dalby Forests, Allerthorpe, Thorne Moors, Rother Valley CP, Ulley CP and five sites in the Harrogate area. Most birds had left by the end of August, however there were late records of singles at Flamborough on 9th and Scalby Lodge, Scarborough on 21st September.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **C1E*** **-,-,**21,9,14

Rare breeding species and vagrant/escape

Due to increases in the feral British breeding population and to keep in line with BOURC's decision to give it a C1E* categorisation, this species was moved into the main list in 2004. All Yorkshire records may still be

attributable to escapes, however, and until a self-supporting population is established, or ringing evidence proves dispersal from self-sustaining populations elsewhere in England, it is not yet 'officially' on the YNU's Yorkshire Category C list.

One was at Denso Marston NR, Shipley on 2nd January. The female present in Acklam, Cleveland during 2005, was joined by another two birds, including a male, early in January. A second male joined the group in late May and both pairs then successfully bred, raising at least three young between them. A bird at Nunthorpe on 24th October most likely involves an individual from this group. A pair that took up residence in an Armley garden, Leeds in November 2005 were regularly seen in the early winter and again, less frequently, later in the year. On one occasion three birds were seen, hinting at successful local breeding. One was chased over Potteric Carr by two Jackdaws on 29th September. Two birds were in the small plantation at the top of Goodrick Lane, Leeds on 24th September, with one remaining until 6th December. A female was at Treeton, Rotherham 26th and 27th November. One was at Sharow on 7th September and one was being pursued by Magpies in Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate on 22nd September.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor
BBS 46/192: -47% (-51) decrease 1994-2006, -16% (-8) decrease 2005-06
A widespread Palearctic species that winters south of the Sahara.

It was a mixed year, with some areas reporting a continued decline, while records increased at other sites. The first arrived in Harrogate and Cottingham on 14th April, followed by Wintersett and Mickletown Ings on 16th; numbers then increased throughout the county during the next ten days. Most sites reported just ones and twos, but some places faired better. At Broomhill Ings, six were logged on two dates in May and an impressive 12 on 1st June; up to five were regular around Wintersett; four were at Paul Holme Strays on 7th May; four at Fairburn on 9th May; at Spurn up to four were seen regularly during May, with five on two dates and six on 25th May.

Most birds had left by mid-July, with late records mainly from coastal sites. Spurn had its last on 20th August; one at Scarborough on 26th August, but Flamborough had two on 1st and 2nd September and the last single on 3rd. Inland late records included one south over Swillington Ings on 29th August and a very late bird at Fairthorn Clough, near Sheffield on 15th September.

Two hepatic birds were reported during the spring, one at Broomhill Ings on 1st and 16th May and 1st June and one at Southfield Res on 16th May.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, rare in north-west. BBS 10/192
The population of this globally widespread species is still increasing locally, particularly in the east. Sightings in the west of the county are less frequent, with Fairburn Ings only record on 27th January, with occasional sightings in the first two months at Swillington Ings and Yeadon Tarn. Around Halifax one was at Northowram between 5th and 11th March.

During the breeding season there were regular reports from Beal Carrs and Blacktoft Sands RSPB, including five at the latter on 23rd May. Although very few breeding records were submitted, nothing suggests the recent recovery doesn't continue. There were records of a single pair at Buckton, a pair bred at Filey Dams, two pairs bred in the Flamborough area and three pairs bred in the Easington area. There were probably three pairs in the Kelk and Lowthorpe area, with records from 16 sites near Scarborough, where breeding pairs were reported to be thinly scattered. Breeding was confirmed/strongly suspected at five sites to the south and east of Leeds and although there were no sightings around Bradford, fresh pellets were found at one site. It was a good year in the Harrogate area, with breeding pairs at Staveley NR, Whixley, Follifoot and two pairs at Great Ouseburn fledging young. One pair bred at Thorne Moors. Four were in the Leven Carrs area and there was the first breeding record in the South Anston area for many years, with a pair fledging at least three young. There was no proof of breeding at Old Moor and Broomhill area. At least two pairs bred in the 'Yorkshire' section of Cleveland, fledging five young.

In the latter half, noteworthy records included a single at Wintersett in September and October, one near Worsborough on 24th October and six on Flixton and Starr Carrs on 16th December. At Spurn an exhausted bird at the Point on 1st November was presumed to be a continental migrant. An escaped bird with rings and jesses was at Walshaw Dene from 26th November.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* **C1**
Uncommon resident in south and west, scarce in east. BBS 18/192
Introduced into England as recently as 1842.

Very few records were submitted, with the majority coming from the west. Reported at 36 sites around Bradford, with three confirmed breeding records and notable counts of four at Thornton Moor Res. and Yeadon and three at Barden and Burley-in-Wharfedale. In Halifax, records were received from 23 sites; although there was only one confirmed attempt, a number of other pairs were thought to have bred and there were at least five pairs in the Cononley area. At Fairburn Ings a pair probably bred and two pairs probably bred at Swillington Ings and Eccup Res. In the Dales, there were regular records from Upper Wharfedale, but fewer sightings around Malham Tarn than previous years. It was widely reported in the Harrogate area, with three pairs around Littlethorpe. There were indications of a decline at Wintersett, with only four records from three sites between 3rd May and 26th August. There were up to four birds regularly noted near Old Moor, with one pair fledging two young and at least two other successful pairs in the Barnsley area, fledging two and two plus young. Considered a widespread breeding species in the Scarborough area, further south two pairs bred at Flamborough. A pair bred at Thorne Moors and a pair was near Kelk throughout the year. At Spurn one was at the Warren on 3rd April, with one at the Point from 26th October to 1st November, with possibly the same bird at the Blue Bell the following day.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* **A**
Fairly common and widespread resident. BBS 3/192
A sedentary species of woodlands, parks and gardens, regularly a victim of road kills. Many local recorders make the assumption that this species, like many of the other owls, is much more widespread that reports suggest. Around Bradford recorded from 30 sites, including four birds at Timble on 11th April; at least 11 confirmed breeding pairs fledged a minimum of 16 young. Reported from 17 sites around Halifax, with calling birds at Hardcastle Crags, Pexwood, Shibden Valley, Shroggs Park, Stainland, Todmorden and Luddenden Dene, where three pairs were present. Territorial birds were noted at six sites in the Cononley area, with at least one pair successfully fledging young. There were no breeding records at Malham Tarn, possibly due to the low numbers of small mammals present there. Widespread reports received in the Harrogate area, including five pairs around Littlethorpe. Elsewhere there were two calling males at Old Moor on 20th January, with a pair present from early January to mid-summer and elsewhere in the Barnsley area, two pairs bred at Midhope Res. and Underbank Res. and single pairs at Sheephouse Wood, Langley Brook and New Hall Wood. Breeding was also confirmed breeding at two sites around Wintersett. One pair fledged two young near Southfield Res. and three pairs bred at Thorne Moors. In the east reported as common around the Scarborough area and at least two pairs bred in Guisborough Forest. Pairs bred at both Filey and Flamborough, but only one only record from Spurn 23rd January.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* **A**
Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and irruptive winter visitor
Very little data available, and very under-recorded, but population may be stable. Scandinavian migrants of this Holarctic circumpolar species are seen on the coast in autumn.

Winter roosts included a maximum of four at Fairburn Ings on 3rd January, five at Mickletown Ings over the first two months, with possibly some duplication with the maximum of five at nearby Swillington Ings until late March. A single roosted at Headingley Golf Course and up to three roosted at Staveley NR in January. An unusual winter record from Spurn was a single on 26th January. Up to four were regular at Old Moor over the first two months and one was at Leventhorpe on 2nd February.

Migrants start to move from mid-March and singles at Beal Carrs on 21st, at Spurn on the 22nd and 25th and Boulby on 30th March may have been such. Further singles were noted at Easington, Filey, Wintersett and Spurn in April, with two at the latter on 12th. Singles were recorded in May from Blacktoft, Filey and Spurn, with the latest there on 28th.

A pair fledged two young in the Malham Tarn area, with birds seen at several nearby sites suggesting other pairs may have been present. It was a poor breeding season in the Harrogate area due to poor weather in early spring, with only one confirmed breeding attempt. Probably ten pairs present around Bradford confined to four areas, with three out of five breeding pairs fledging at least three, possibly six young. Around Halifax breeding was confirmed from three sites, and probably bred at a fourth, whilst two pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, three pairs bred at Thorne Moors and in the Barnsley area, pairs bred at Langsett Bank, Midhope Res (fledged two young), Whitwell Moor (fledged three young) and at least one pair in Ewden Brow area fledged two young. On the outskirts of Middlesbrough and the very edge of the county three pairs bred in the Long Newton area, each

fledging one chick; records were also received from Guisborough Forest and Burniston on several dates throughout the year.

A poor autumn at Spurn, with singles on only six dates between 15th August and the last, one in off the sea, on 2nd November. Elsewhere on the coast singles were at South Gare on 15th October and at Filey on 12th and 27th October. One came in off the sea at Marine Drive, Scarborough on 2nd November with Flamborough's sole record at North Landing on 18th November. Up to four birds were back in the Swillington Ings roost from late November and one bird roosted at Staveley in December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flames* **A**
Amber list: rare moorland breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 9/192
Populations fluctuate according to the vole cycle. Over the first quarter singles were recorded at several locations including Bronchiole, Staveley NR and Cross cliff (Scarborough), with regular sightings from Barden and Baildon Moors. Four were between Stone Creek and Paull on 22nd January with two at Willerby Carr on 5th February and two at Wimbledon, Ryedale on 2nd March. Up to four were in the Swillington Ings until early March, with one or two birds remaining until early May, when wing clapping was noted. Up to two were present at Blacktoft Sands until mid-March, while early on records were scarcer than recent years at Flamborough. Noted occasionally on Starr Carrs, with three present on 15th January and at Spurn, with two noted regularly from the end of March. Reports increased from mid-March, which included four at Cowl am Bottoms on 27th and six at Fly Flatts Res. on 31st March; five were still present at the latter location on 29th May.

Records at Studley Park on 6th and one hunting the Rocket Pole Field at Filey on 18th June were unseasonable. There were relatively few breeding records; confirmed in the Bradford area at Kex Gill, Denton and Worley Moor, with pairs present at several other sites. In Halifax there was one confirmed breeding record, although strongly suspected at two other sites. One pair nested on moorland adjacent to Cononley. Possibly bred near Guisborough Moor/Sleddale and single birds were also seen around Grimwith Res during the breeding season; present at four potentially suitable breeding sites in Harrogate area during the summer.

Returning birds were first noted back at Spurn on 7th August, with others at Blacktoft Sands on 21st and Cherry Cobb Sands on 24th. An increase in coastal records continued through September into October, with three at Spurn on 22nd October. However, most sites recorded low numbers; obvious immigrants included one in off the sea at Filey on 2nd November with three in off at Spurn on the same date.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/192
This Palearctic species winters in East and southern Africa, with a British population of 4,600 pairs.

A pair and a second male again summered near Guisborough, at the same site as breeding had been confirmed in the two previous years. First seen on 6th May, which constituted the earliest ever for the area, they were present until at least mid-August. Further south the first record in the Scarborough area was a migrant over Eastfield at 2150 hrs on 19th May. Churring males were again well distributed in the forest clearings on the North Yorkshire Moors, with the last a single in the Wykeham Grange area on 23rd August.

Elsewhere, 56 nightjar territories were located during the survey of Thorne and Hatfield Moors (Middleton Consultancy), while three to four pairs bred in the Sheffield area.

SWIFT *Apus apus* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 86/192: -12% (-35) decrease 1994-2006, -11% (-18) decrease 2005-06
The first were at Fairburn Ings, Rother Valley CP and Wharncliffe Side, Sheffield on 16th April, with reasonable-sized flocks appearing from 27th April, when 80 were at Wintersett. Numbers built up during May and high counts included: 2500 at Broomhill Ings on 13th and 2000 there on 23rd; 2000 at Hornsea Mere on 13th and 1700 on 28th, then 2500 on 19th June and 6000 on 22nd June; 500 on 13th/14th May at Fairburn Ings; at Wintersett counts of 550 on 14th May and a peak of 1900 on 20th; 1400 still remaining on 24th, before falling to 900 on 30th; and 1000+ birds at Swillington Ings on 28th May.

From late June and throughout July, large southerly movements were witnessed, especially at Spurn; where a total of 32,900 flew south between early May and late August, with the highest counts of 4118 on 11th June, 2000 on 12th, 9000 on 19th, 4430 on 21st June and 4300 on 7th July. After 900 on 1st August, all other counts were in single or low double figures. Other sites which recorded southerly passage included 1195 over Flamborough on 29th June, 640 south-west over Potteric Carr on 9th July and 200 over Halifax on 22nd July. Ones and twos lingered at many sites until early September, with late records of two at Potteric Carr on 12th,

then singles at Blacktoft Sands on 15th, Flamborough on 21st, Ulrome on 27th, Spurn on 28th, and Filey on 29th September. There was one very late record of one at Spurn on 26th November, which was thought to possibly be of the eastern race *pekinensis*.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* **A** 3,1,2,2,2
Rare migrant from southern Europe; 68 previous records
Breeds discontinuously from North-west Africa east to North Pakistan, and can turn up from very early in spring through summer to late autumn.).

One fed over the cliffs north of the Tip at Filey at 1145hrs on 2nd April (DI *et al.*). It was thought to have flown off, although was later relocated near the Rocket Pole Field and lingered awhile, before leaving south from the end of Carr Naze at 1610 hrs.

One was seen flying west over the Valley Gardens, Harrogate on 18th July (DTo).

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to scarce resident breeder. BBS 3/192
Records were received from across the county and it continues to maintain a healthy population. Concentrations of breeding birds included five territories at Broomhill Ings, three at Tophill Low and two at Fairburn Ings.

High counts included six at Broomhill Ings on 8th January and 22nd July and six at Fairburn Ings on 16th July.

Post-breeding dispersal saw birds venturing as far as the coast, where singles were seen at South Gare on 3rd September and 11th October and sporadically at Filey Brigg and Spurn during the autumn.

ROLLER *Coracias garrulous* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; five previous records since the 1800s
After overnight rain and an easterly wind, a juvenile was flushed from the bomb-hole on South Gare at 1125hrs on 18th August (WIB *et al.*). Although very wet and bedraggled, it subsequently showed well until 2040hrs when it flew out to sea in a north-easterly direction. Amazingly the last Yorkshire record came from the same location, when a juvenile was captured on film flying west on 11th September 1993.

BEE-EATER *Merops apias* **A** 16,2,2,2,2
Rare visitor from southern Europe; 90 previous records (136 birds)
This Mediterranean species breeds throughout southern Europe, and is now a regular over-shooting spring visitor to the county, with Spurn Point the premier location.

The first of two records came from Flamborough, with one sat on wires at Northcliffe for 15 minutes from 0900 hrs on 21st May (AMA); the second was at Spurn on 11th June, originally found at the Point at 0725 hrs (RJS), it spent an hour there, before moving north being seen at the Lighthouse and lastly Chalk Bank.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* **A** 2,7,4,2,5
Rare visitor from Europe, annual in recent years; 255 previous records
This species is widely distributed across central Eurasia, the Indian sub-continent, parts of South-east Asia and North Africa.

At Spurn, an elusive bird wandered around Kilnsea on 27th April before flying off towards Sammy's Point (AAH). The next was by the Cleveland Way at Kettleness Point on 5th May, followed by another at Spurn from 6th to 8th May in the Triangle (JSn *et al.*). At Flamborough, one was in a grass field opposite Ocean View Farm on 9th/10th May (GC: PAL *et al.*). The last record was one at Redmires on 21st May, seen briefly before flying off west over the Top Reservoir (RDH).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* **A** 30,7,31,57,13
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant, rare inland.
Breeds across Eurasia through to Japan; it has been extinct in Britain since 1993. The European population mostly winters south of the Sahara and migrating Scandinavian birds occur regularly in the county in spring and autumn.

The first was inland at Margrove Ponds on 6th May (MRKA *et al.*), with the only other spring record also in Cleveland, at South Gare the next day (JBi *et al.*).

Two arrived at Spurn on 13th August: one at the Crown & Anchor (TMc) and one at the Point (BRS), the latter remaining until 14th. Two singles found in the Triangle at Spurn on 18th (BF: AAH) and the following day a single was on Long Lane, Filey (CB *et al.*). One showed well at Sammy's Point, Easington on 26th August (RJB). In

September, a single was seen in the Triangle at Spurn on 10th; one was along the appropriately named 'Wryneck Hedge' at Flamborough on 15th (RBa) and two were in the vicinity of Old Fall on 16th (IM *et al.*). The last of the year was at Catwick on 7th October (SM).

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon resident. BBS 21/192
A European species that is expanding northwards in Britain. Although it is recorded from many localities from across the region, it remains scarce in the Holderness area of East Yorkshire.

Sightings near the coast in VC61 included one at Hornsea Mere on 2nd January and again from 4th April to 7th May and out of range singles at Flamborough on 4th May and 10th September. At least five territories were located in the Wintersett area and the only counts of any note were six on two dates in October at Fairburn Ings and four at Broomhill Ings on 30th July and on several September dates.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* **A**
Fairly common resident; scarce passage migrant in autumn. BBS 44/192
The population of the resident subspecies *anglicus* continues to increase, particularly in North Yorkshire. Nominate race birds from Scandinavia are occasional immigrants.

Notable counts included: up to six visiting the feeders at High Batts NR, Harrogate during January and a minimum of six in the Filey area in the first quarter. In the Leeds area up to seven males were drumming at Temple Newsam in spring, with four males doing likewise at Lindley Wood Res on 29th April. Eleven territories were located in the Wintersett area during the summer and young were seen being fed at four of those sites. Six were counted at Fairburn Ings on 26th June.

Continental birds of the nominate race were seen at Flamborough on 5th April and 23rd October, wandering birds or migrants were seen on the outer head at Flamborough during the autumn and also at Spurn, where singles were seen on 29 dates between 1st July and 26th October and three were logged on 18th September.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident, rare in south-east
The national population is declining, although South Yorkshire remains a relative stronghold.

This is a species that is best detected in March and April when birds are calling and drumming, while in winter they often join mixed tit flocks and sometimes even come to garden feeders. The largest number of reports came from the Sheffield area, where there were a minimum of 14 territories in the recording area, several of which fledged young. Away from Sheffield, reports came from 49 sites, with breeding confirmed at Meanwood Valley, Leeds; however, there were at least eleven reports of males in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* **A** 2,1,1,0,2
Rare coastal passage migrant; 42 previous records
Two records during the year, one in the spring and one in the autumn.
A well-watched bird was photographed during its stay at South Gare on 7th and 8th May (DAM *et al.*).

In autumn a single associated with a Skylark flock in a stubble field near the Blue Dolphin Caravan Park, Filey on 14th/15th October (REH: DJS: CCT *et al.*); it was mainly seen in flight, but on its first day it also shared the field with a Richard's Pipit and an Isabelline Wheatear!

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding visitor and passage migrant
A good series of migrants; the first was at Spurn on 24th March (AAH), one flew north-east over Rother Valley CP on 28th March, one flew south at Spurn on 1st April (AAH) and one was at Maltby Pit Top, Rotherham on 16th April. In the autumn migrants included: a long-staying bird was at Pit-house West, Rother Valley CP from 20th August to 16th September; two flew over the Outer Head at Flamborough on 25th September (PAL); with another at Old Fall on 18th October (PAL).

It appears to be extending its range away from the core breeding areas in East and South Yorkshire; a pair with three recently fledged young was watched on several days during July and early August in the Harrogate area. Breeding birds returned to the Central Science Laboratory at Sand Hutton, York in early February and this year possibly two pairs bred, although young were not seen.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 145/192: 23% (-19) increase 1994-2006, 9% (-2) increase 2005-06
This Palearctic species is decreasing both nationally and locally, although it has slowly recovered from a low base in 1994 and reports suggest that the breeding population is now stabling.

The winter population in the first period saw counts in January of 65 at Filey on 2nd, 55 at Marske Stray on 5th, 70 at Southfield Res on 6th and 75 at Broomhill Ings on 18th, while there was a flock of 100 near Leagate, Malham on 13th April. Spring passage at Spurn involved 253 flying south between 15th February and 26th June, with a peak in late March and a maximum count of 34 on 25th.

Concentrations of breeding birds included 45 territories at Wintersett and 67 at Fairburn Ings.

Autumn gatherings included: 111 at Flamborough on 30th September; 100 at Broomhill Ings on 2nd October; 200 plus an additional 38 in off at Filey on 13th; 80+ at Southfield Res on 12th October and 140 in a stubble field at Nunthorpe, Cleveland in October. There was widespread southerly passage in small numbers: 90 over Nosterfield NR on 21st September, followed in October with 60 over Swillington Ings on 1st; 21at Filey on 8th and 35 there on 21st; and 95 at Broomhill Ings on 20th. Passage at Spurn saw 2983 fly south and 138 come in off between 7th September and 9th December. Peak southerly passage occurred in October and those coming in off the sea peaked in November. Maximum daily counts included 327 on 9th, 380 on 12th, 445 on 21st and 545 on 23rd October, while 44 came in off the sea on 16th November.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* **A** 28,88,72,36,19
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.

It was a poor year with just two records in the first half: two were at Beacon Ponds on 21st/22nd February and one flew past South Gare on 27th April (DAM).

The first of the autumn were seen at Spurn on 11th October: a confiding bird at the Point car park (SM *et al.*) and one flew south past the sea-watching hut (TMc: AR). One recorded at Long Nab on 13th October (NWA), the next was a showy bird on Carr Naze, Filey on 22nd October (JS *et al.*), followed by two at Beacon Ponds on 28th. Two flew north at Bempton Cliffs on 3rd November. The sole Flamborough record was by Bluethroat Dyke on 12th November (BR: AMa) and a single flushed from the stubble field near the Blue Dolphin, Filey on 19th (PLM: CCT). A single lingered on the Humber shore at Spurn from 22nd to 29th November (AAH) and two were at Beacon Ponds on 16th December. Two were at Grimston on 26th November and again on 2nd and 6th December.

However, unusually the last record came from Calderdale in West Yorkshire, when one associated with Skylarks at Swalesmoor on 26th December where it remained to the year-end (IG *et al.*).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **A**
Amber list: fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 16/192
The population of this sub-Saharan migrant is stable or slightly increasing.

The first were three at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 7th March, which was very early for a coastal site. The next were from the Leeds area, with four at Swillington Ings on 18th March and 20 there the next day, when 150 were at Knotford Nook. There was then a mass arrival across the county from 25th March with many sites recording up to 200 birds; numbers then slowly built throughout April, with the following high counts: 500 at Lowther Lake, Leeds on 1st; 700 at Broomhill Ings on 7th April; 300 at Pugneys CP on 9th and 21st; 750 at Staveley NR on 15th; 360 on the 17th and 670 on the 22nd at Wintersett; 600 on 21st and 850 on 28th at Southfield Res; 500 at Nosterfield NR on 22nd; but the highest counts were at 2000 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd and 3000 at Blacktoft Sands on 25th. In May, there was 1000 at Tophill Low NR on 1st, 600 at Nosterfield NR on 20th and a superb 4500 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd May. Southerly passage at Spurn was poor in the spring, with just 657 up to 16th June.

Small breeding colonies were found right across Yorkshire, with the larger ones being: just south of Redcar (80 nest holes); Wykeham (60 nest holes); Sand Hutton, York (41 nest holes); Calder Wetlands (c.100 nest holes); in the Harrogate area there were 53 pairs at Farnham GP, good sized colonies were reported on the south bank of the River Ure near Milby Lock and also near Boroughbridge. The East Dales Ringing Group paid five visits to a riverbank colony near Hutton Conyers, where the first broods were flooded out, but caught and ringed 274 adults and 62 juveniles; two birds wearing Spanish rings were re-trapped.

Late summer build-ups during late July and August included 800 on 14th and 1000+ on 20th July at Swillington Ings; 600 at Spurn on 23rd July and 1000 on 6th and 8th August; 400 at Pugneys CP on 6th August; 900 at Fairburn Ings on 19th August; 1000 on 20th and 23rd August; 400 on 25th, 450 on 30th August and 400 on 2nd September at Wintersett. It was a good autumn for passage at Spurn and between 1st July and 1st October, 6452 flew south; peak passage related to the first broods moving through between mid-July and early August and the second broods in early September. High counts included 419 on 22nd, 1042 on 23rd, 1382 on 26th July and 827 on 6th August. Late records in October involved one at Swillington Ings on 7th, eight at Broomhill Ings on 8th, a single at Tophill Low on 9th and the last, one south at Spurn on 12th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 151/192: 64% (36) increase 1994-2006, 23% (8) increase 2005-06
The population each year is variable, perhaps depending on factors affecting wintering areas in South Africa and migration routes.

The first was at Broomhill Ings on 26th March, followed by singles over Knaresborough and Staveley NR on 28th. There was then a widespread arrival over the next few days and birds were soon on breeding territories. Notable congregations over wetland areas included 300 at Elland GP on three dates in April and 400 on 1st May; 300 were at nearby Colne Bridge SF on 7th May, 450 during May at Broomhill Ings and 475 at Wintersett on 14th May. Spurn had an average spring passage of overshooting birds with 10,518 moving through between 30th March and the end of June, including 1700 on 4th, 2600 on 5th and 1065 on 6th May.

Gatherings in late summer/early autumn included: 640 at Flamborough on 6th August; at Broomhill Ings a very large roost held a minimum of 10,000 from 22nd to 24th August; 300 at Upper Midhope on 13th September; 255 at Hay-a-Park GP on 10th September and 300+ at Eccup Res on 25th September. Notable passage south included 300 at North Cave Wetlands on 24th September, while Spurn recorded 25,036 between 1st July and 7th November; the largest counts being 1685 on 20th; 1536 on 27th August; 4720 on 6th September and 1177 on 27th. However these counts were completely over shadowed by an incredible movement on 10th September through the Harrogate area with 5,000 through Farnham GP and 50,000 through Bilton. Late records included singles at Flamborough on 13th November, in Eastfield, Scarborough on 14th and the last lingering along the Saltburn sea-front until 26th November.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* **A**
Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 67/192: 44% (2) increase 1994-2006, -35% (-16) decrease 2005-06
After the big recovery in numbers in 2003, the population of this trans-Saharan migrant has remained constant.

Six over Garforth, Leeds on 26th March were the first and small numbers appeared at most wetland sites during the following two weeks. However, there were very few large counts in the spring, the best of which were: 100 at Elland GP on 1st May; 200 at Wintersett on 14th May, building to 400 on 22nd; 180 at Fairburn Ings on 27th; while the best counts were at Hornsea Mere, where there were 250 on 27th April, 2000 on 13th May and 3500 on 22nd. Spring southerly passage at Spurn was very light and just 1157 flew south by 22nd June.

Gatherings in the autumn saw: 150 at Broomhill Ings on 4th August; 70 at Scaling Dam on 22nd, increasing to an impressive c.650 there on 29th August; 280 at Flamborough on 19th and 350 there on 20th August and 230 on 21st September; 200 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 4th September and 250 were at Filey on 11th. It was a poor autumn at Spurn with just 4994 flying south between 6th July and 31st October; only two counts were over 250, although a very good one was 2700 on 6th September, followed by 283 on 27th. Late records included one at Filey on 21st October, four at Tophill Low NR on 22nd, two at Spurn on 9th November, one at Holbeck, Scarborough on 10th November and a very late record of one over Albemarle Back Road, Scarborough on 8th December.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* **A** 3,2,9,7,1
Rare passage migrant; 58 previous records (64 birds)
Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.

Just one record this year; typically from Spurn, when one flew south past the Narrows at 1015 hrs on 18th May (PCo: AR: RSp).

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **A** 12,12,10,28,10
Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland
The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September on route to uncertain wintering grounds.

All records came from the coastal observatories during October and November. The first arrived at Spurn on 13th and remained until 15th October (PJA *et al.*). There was a small arrival on the 14th, with singles over the Gorse Field at Flamborough (MT), Sammy's Point (JG) and Filey; the latter seen again on 17th (REH: DJS: CCT *et al.*). Further singles were in the Long Bank/ Beacon Lagoons area, Kilnsea on 23rd and south at Spurn on 25th October (PCo: RJB). In November singles were: near the Blue Dolphin at Filey from 4th-6th (JH: CCT *et al.*); at Flamborough on 6th and again on 9th (PAL); flushed from Clubley's Field, Spurn on 23rd (BRS) and finally, on the cliff top at Filey on 25th (SC).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* **A** 0,2,2,1,1
Rare coastal passage migrant; 22 previous records
European range restricted to North Urals, although widespread from Central Siberia east to Japan, wintering in southern China and in SE Asia.

On 14th October, one was found just north of the Warren at Spurn (MC *et al.*); although it initially showed well and was photographed, it became more elusive as the day went on and spent the afternoon in Clubley's Field. A typical record of what is now almost an annual visitor to the county.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor to north and west. BBS 5/192
A nationally declining migrant from south of the Sahara that breeds throughout most of the Palearctic including arctic Scandinavia, but rarely in Ireland.

The first returning bird was recorded at Bastow Woods, Upper Wharfedale on 15th April. The 18th April saw a more widespread arrival, with birds at Coatham Marsh, Filey, Oulton and Thorne Moors. Coastal migrants were at: Boulby Cliffs on 20th April; Burniston and Stile Scrub on 23rd April; Filey on a further four dates up to 26th May; Flamborough singles on six dates between 9th May and 24th June, with two on 18th May; Spurn recorded no more than two on 18 dates between 21st April and 1st June.

The species continues to decline as a breeding species; it has almost vanished from the lowlands and is now disappearing along the Pennines. In the Halifax area, none of the five spring records were holding territory.

Singing males were recorded as follows: at Skipwith Common on 29th April (VC 61); Eston, Guisborough Moor (2), Roseberry Topping (2), Sandburn Hall Golf Course, Dalby Forest (5), Wykeham Forest, Harland Moor (VC 62); Agden side (7), Blacka Moor (3), Cowell Flat (2), Rivelin Valley, Spring Wood, Wharncliffe Woods (7), Wyming Brook, Thorne Moors (3) and Hatfield Moors (VC 63); Buckden, Yockenthwaite, Long Ashes, Bastow (5), Heyshaw Moor, Ellington Banks, Brimham Rocks, Guisecliffe and Skrikes Wood (VC 64) and Colsterdale (VC 65).

During the autumn, ' vismig' in the Sheffield area recorded 29 passing south or south-west between 16th August and 1st October, with peaks of four over Redmires Res on 20th and 27th August. A further 22 were recorded around Bradford between 30th July and 16th September from seven sites, with peak day counts of five at Doe Park Res and Thornton Moor Res. Migrants were recorded at a further 12 inland sites from 30th July, with the last over Mickletown Ings and Barnsley on 17th September. Coastal autumn passage was disappointing, with Spurn the only site to record reasonable numbers with 73 bird/days between 7th August and 15th October; the majority flew south, with peak counts of 12 on 18th August and 10 on 17th September. Singles were at South Gare on 24th September, Castle Hill, Scarborough on 21st August, at Filey on 18th and 19th August, with two there on 16th September and one the following day. Flamborough's sole records were on 18th August and 3rd September.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* **A**
Amber list: common resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 92/192: -44% (-23) decrease 1994-2006, -2% (-13) decrease 2005-06
Fairly scarce in the mid-winter period and the only January double-figure counts were 15 at Spurn on 1st, 11 on Skeffling foreshore the following day and 50 at Middle Hare Fell on 28th January. Return passage commenced in early March, with up to 100 at many sites until mid April. Higher March counts included 195 over Fly Flatts on 25th, with 150 here the next day, followed by 350 north-west past Skinningrove and Hummersea and 400 per hour past Boulby on 30th. Between 9th March and 3rd May, 482 flew south and 358 came in off at Spurn, with high counts of 111 south on 25th March and 205 in off the sea on 1st April.

A common and widespread breeding species, particularly in the uplands, although the decline in recent years has continued. A few counts of breeding territories included seven in the Wintersett area, 20 at Spurn, 20 at Fly Flatts, 14 at Old Moor and 33 at Fairburn.

Autumn passage through the Sheffield area was slightly lower than in recent years with only three counts of over a thousand; 1540 flew south-west over Rod Moor on 25th September, another 1090 similarly on 8th October, when 1195 also passed over Redmires Res. In the Bradford area record numbers were counted between late August and the end of October, with an autumn total of 28,780 logged. The majority was over Thornton Moor Res, where the main movements occurred on 22nd September (5120) and 25th September (6040). Although up to 600 were recorded at several sites along the coast, only Spurn managed four-figure counts; 32,516 flew south, with the main passage between mid-September and early October and included 9800 on 17th September, 6400 on 25th, 2051 on 27th and 1130 on 30th September.

Small numbers lingered at the year end and significant December counts included 45 at Bishop Monkton Ings on 16th, up to 30 at Old Moor, 50 at Aldwarke SW on 24th, 44 at Silverwood Pit Tip on 24th and 20 at Farnham GP on 25th.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* **A**

Fairly common coastal resident and passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

Resident around rocky coastlines of Britain, Ireland and northern France.

Coastal records over the first two months included 12 at South Gare and Skinningrove, eight at Flamborough, 23 at Filey on 21st January and up to 18 at Welwick Saltmarsh. During March a total of 37 moved south at Spurn, with high counts of ten on 23rd and 25th.

There was no evidence of a change in breeding status, with territorial birds present along the coast from Flamborough northwards.

Spurn recorded a good autumn passage; between 21st September and 1st December 501 flew south and 10 came in off the sea. The highest numbers occurred in October with 34 on 4th, 150 flew south and 14 were grounded on 12th, 95 on 13th and 44 on 23rd October. Flamborough had peak monthly counts of 16 on 25th September, 26 on 21st October, 30 on 6th November and up to 12 in December.

Birds showing characteristics of the Scandanavian race *A.p.littoralis* were widely reported from coastal sites during March and April, with Filey recording a peak of eight on 25th March. There was a single at Skinningrove on 1st April, three were at Cromer Point, Burniston on 3rd April, three were at Flamborough on 23rd March, with a single at Spurn the following day.

It is highly likely that the bulk of, if not all the inland records, also refer to the migratory Scandanavian race. In spring North Cave Wetland recorded singles on 4th March, 1st April, two on 6th, one on 10th and two on 11th April. Lingham Lake hosted the following in April: three on 8th, five on 9th, two on 14th and three on 22nd. The duo on 8th April, and at least three the following day, exhibited plumage traits characteristic of the Scandinavian race. Inland records peaked during October. Rother Valley CP had singles on 3rd and 10th with three flying over on 11th October; Fairburn Ings on 14th; North Cave on 15th; Swillington Ings from 19th-22nd; singles at Wintersett on 14th and 29th; singles at Old Moor on 10th, 15th and 27th; at Blacktoft Sands, two on 12th and single on 14th; singles over Rod Moor and Redmires on 29th.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* **A** 16,24,36,28,39

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe

This species breeds in the mountains of southern Europe, dispersing northwards to winter.

Over-wintering birds were at Blacktoft, where three were present in January, two in February, singles in March and the last on 1st April. At least six were present in saltmarsh along the Humber between Skeffling and Patrington Haven from January through to March. A single was present at Fairburn from January until 12th April. Passage commenced in March with singles at Swillington Ings on 7th, Hornsea Mere on 30th, Cromer Point, Burniston from 26th March until 23rd April and Scaling Dam from 28th March to 3rd April. During April further birds were at: Fairburn Ings on 1st; Pugneys CP from 5th to 20th, with two on 8th-9th; North Cave Wetland with two on 6th and one remaining until the 9th; Nosterfield LNR on 8th and Nosterfield Quarry on 9th and 22nd. The last of spring was at Flamborough on 10th May and only the seventh site record.

The first of the autumn was at Fairburn Ings on 29th October, where two were present on 12th November, with a single until the year end. Present at Blacktoft from 30th October, with three present during November and five during December, which increased to 12 on 26th. Elsewhere, singles were at Wintersett on 6th November, Wheldrake Ings on 28th December and Cromer Point, Scarborough on New Year's Eve.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP subspecies (*flavissima*): uncommon and decreasing breeding summer visitor/passage migrant. BBS 24/192

The British race *flavissima* winters in West Africa and is decreasing, probably due to changes in agricultural practices.

The first of the year was at Tophill Low on 1st April followed by birds at Pulfin on 5th, Swillington Ings on 9th, North Cave Wetland and Swillington Ings on 10th and at Filey and Spurn from 11th April. At Spurn a total of 293 flew south between 11th April and 13th June, with a peak of 47 on 5th May. A good spring passage with higher counts in the last week of April and included 46 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 25th, 21 at Southfield Res on 29th, 20 at Pugneys on 20th- 21st and 40 at Sammy's Point, Easington on 30th .

Although it remains a relatively common breeding species in the lowland east of the county, it continues to decline along the Pennine fringe; none bred in the Leeds area, or at the wetland reserves of Fairburn Ings and Old Moor. Counts of breeding birds in the lowland included a minimum of twenty pairs on Swinefleet Common, Tophill Low and four pairs in the Wintersett area. In the north and west of the county birds were present during the breeding season in Scarborough area at Scalby Lodge Pond, Trough Gully and West Ayton Carr; two pairs were at Cawton and at least six pairs were in the Malham Tarn area.

Flocks were widespread in the autumn, with high counts of 22 at Filey on 23rd July, 80 Blacktoft Sands on 19th August, 124 at Long Bank Marsh, Kilnsea on 19th August, 20 at Swillington Ings on 26th August, 55 at Flamborough on 27th August, 50 were at Southfield Res on 23rd August and 62 were in the Triangle at Spurn on 5th September. A total of 700 flew south at Spurn between 3rd July and 2nd October, with passage peaking between mid-August and mid-September. High counts included: 130 on 15th; 90 on 20th August; 67 on 6th and 25 on 12th September. Most had departed inland sites by the third week of September and there were just three October records; Spurn on 2nd, at Catwick on 5th and Pugneys on 8th.

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* **A**

Passage migrant

Breeds in western continental Europe from Southern Scandinavia south to Northern Iberia and east to the Balkans.

The first arrived at Filey 18th April, with Scalby Lodge Pond hosting one on 22nd April, two males on 25th April and a male from 16th-18th June. Spurn held singles on four dates between 21st April and 7th May, with two present on 23rd April and there were up to three at Sammy's Point, Easington between 23rd and 30th April. At Flamborough four were present on 5th May, with one still present the next day.

Inland records included: singles at Flasks Lake on 15th and 18th April, with two present on 22nd; singles at Pugneys on 18th and 23rd April; and Tophill, with singles there on 27th and 30th April, two on 6th May and one from 13th-14th May.

Only one was identified during the autumn, at Flamborough on 25th September.

GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava thunbergi* **A** 5,2,1,3,1

Rare migrant

Breeds in central and northern Scandinavia west to northern Siberia.

It was another poor year, with the sole record a male in the Lighthouse car-park at Flamborough on 27th May (MG).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* **A**

Amber list: uncommon resident in north and west; scarce passage migrant. BBS 14/192

Favours fast-flowing watercourses, and appears to be increasing in the north-west, but there are also more reports from lowland areas where it occasionally breeds. Breeding in the mountains of the Palearctic, continental birds migrate south and may account for some of our coastal records.

Small numbers were recorded throughout in both winter periods, with higher counts of eight at Tinsley SW on 21st January, nine at Lemonroyd Water Treatment Works during January/February and nine at Dowley Gap SW on 16th December.

During the spring 19 migrants moved south at Spurn between 14th March and 5th May, with a maximum of three. Breeding season reports were widespread, particularly in the north and west of the county, with no significant change in status reported.

Autumn passage saw 106 fly south at Spurn between 22nd July and 29th October, although passage

peaked during September. High counts included ten on 18th and eight on 26th September. Between late August and the end of October 55 were counted passing over the regular migration watchpoints in the Bradford area, with a peak of 11 over Denholme Clough on 30th September.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* **A**
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 100/192: -19% (17) decrease 1994-2006, -28% (-6) decrease 2005-06
Although a decrease in BBS was noted this year, the general trend has been upwards, with an increase noted in North Yorkshire in particular. The British race *M. a. yarrellii* is mostly resident, but some move south.

Gatherings of up to 60 were recorded at many sites in the early part of year, when the largest counts were 100 at Marton-le Moor on 13th January and 125 at Marley SW on 21st January.

Spring passage began in March, with 41 over Nosterfield on 25th. At Spurn southbound 'albas' totalled 275 between 25th March and 27th May, although passage peaked during late March and early April. High counts included 35 on 26th, 41 on 29th March and 23 on 1st April. The only other significant coastal record was 50 through Hummersea on 29th March.

There were no changes reported in breeding status, with a geographical spread throughout the county.

Spurn logged 521 over between 12th July and 6th November; numbers peaked between late September and late October, with high counts of 33 on 18th September, 48 on 2nd, 38 on 7th, and 54 on 21st October. In the Bradford area a total of 538 headed south over Thornton Moor Res, Denholme Clough and Caldene Fields with respective daily maxima of 51, 45 and 66. On the Sheffield moors, a total of 403 headed south-west between 17th September and 10th October, with peak counts of 94 over Rod Moor on 1st October and 100 on 8th.

Several large roosts were located in the last few months of the year, most in typically urban locations including: 100 at Farnham GP on 2nd October, 200 at Central Science Laboratory, York on 12th October, with at least 150 remaining in December, 200 at Bramley on 17th November, and 200 in Rotherham on 15th December.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba* **A**
Passage migrant
Breeds in Iceland and northern Europe and winters in Africa.

An excellent spring passage, with birds recorded at many coastal and inland wetland sites. The first was at Flasks Lake on 25th March, followed by singles at Flamborough and Spurn on 26th, Filey and Hummersea on 29th, Old Moor on 30th and Pugneys and Wintersett on 31st.

During April birds were widely reported, with double figures at several sites. Pugneys attracted birds daily until the 24th April, with 15 on 14th, 32 on 19th, 12 on 20th and 16 on 23rd. Flasks Lake held three on 8th April, 27 on 14th, 32 on 15th/16th, 25 on 18th, and 11 on 23rd April. Four arrived at Filey on 15th building up to 25 on 19th, decreasing to ten on 20th and then only three remained on 21st April. Higher numbers at other sites included eight at Hornsea Mere on 7th April, seven at Old Moor on 21st, ten at Lingham Lake on 22nd/23rd, 22 at Paull Holme Strays on 22nd and 12 at South Gare on 29th April. The coastal migration hotspots of Spurn and Flamborough recorded relatively modest peaks of five on 5th and four on 22nd; apart from the exceptional count (in relative site terms) at Filey, most moved through the spine of the county.

Only small numbers were noted in May, with singles at Ringstone Edge on 1st and 16th, Lingham Lake on 3rd, Scammonden on 4th May and four at Flasks Lake on 3rd. On the coast, a single was at Skinningrove on 23rd, Beeford on 13th, Flamborough had 14 bird/days, with a peak of three and Spurn held singles on three dates.

Although this race undoubtedly passes through the county in autumn, it is more difficult to identify and the only records received were two at Nosterfield on 7th and two at Wintersett on 23rd September.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* **A**
Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, usually uncommon
Breeds from northern Scandinavia eastwards through the coniferous zone, including North America.

Although small numbers were widely distributed over the first four months, the larger concentrations were centred in South and West Yorkshire. Forty were in Hunslett on 1st January, while four days later there was a flock of 86 in the centre of Sheffield. Eighteen were in Burley-in-Wharfedale on 22nd January, with a party of up to 45 resident in Saltaire from the start of the year until March. Twenty were present in Harrogate on 22nd February; further south, smaller flocks that had roamed Huddersfield over the first couple of months coalesced to 58 on Manchester Road on 23rd February. Fifteen overflew Bishopthorpe Crematorium, York on 11th March, but flocks then tended to aggregate in urban centres prior to departure. In April, ten were in Hull and 19 in

Rawmarsh on 7th; 19 were on Stepney Road, Scarborough on 9th; 38 were in Ossett on 17th and 105 gathered in Horsforth on 21st April. The last was a flock of 34 in Yeadon on 2nd May.

The second winter period was very quiet. A single flew over Spurn on 1st November, followed two days later by one at the Warren and then one in the Triangle on 10th November, when another was at Flamborough. The following day there were five in Pickering and finally, 21 visited Killinghall Moor, Harrogate on 18th December.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* **A**
Uncommon resident on higher ground in north and west. BBS 6/192
Nationally stable population of the race *gularis.*

In the east of the county pairs bred at Wrench Green, Hilla Green and Thornton-le-Dale all west of Scarborough, while further north a pair bred at Saltburn Woods. There appeared to be no change in breeding status within the Harrogate recording area, but there was an appreciable increase in records received in both the Bradford and Halifax areas. Sixteen adults were present along the river Wharfe between Bolton Abbey and Howgill, with a further 15 downstream of there to Pool. Twenty birds were also present along the Aire Valley, although there were only two records from the Washburn Valley, a former stronghold within the Bradford recording area. There were records from 26 sites around Halifax, with breeding proved at Blackburn Brook, Oxygrains, Hebden Bridge and Luddenden Dean. The River Don appeared to be a stronghold for the species in the Sheffield and Barnsley areas, with four pairs located on a 3km stretch at Oughtibridge and at least six pairs present between Thurgoland and More Hall, while two pairs bred at Bullhouse Mill. In addition, there were breeding pairs at Bingham Park, Dungworth, the River Sheaf at Millhouses, Tin Mill Dam (Don), Den Bank (River Rivelin), Deepcar (Don), Wharncliffe Side and at Healey (River Sheaf). A bird trapped at Loxley, Sheffield on 12 February had been ringed at Monsal Head, Derbyshire (22km away) on 24th October 1999.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* **A**
Abundant resident; passage migrant in small numbers
BBS 164/192: 57% (1) increase 1994-2006, 18% (-7) increase 2005-06
The run of mild winters seems to be having a very positive effect on numbers, as indicated by the regional BBS data. Nineteen pairs bred at Spurn (up from 18 singing males in 2005), while 82 pairs bred at Fairburn. There appeared to be very little movement along the coast, although 16 at Hummersea on 25th September and 21 at Long Nab on 13th October were thought to be migrants.

DUNNOCK (HEDGE ACCENTOR) *Prunella modularis* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: abundant resident; passage migrant
BBS 120/192: 2% (18) increase 1994-2006, 5% (3) increase 2005-06
The very sedentary British race *occidentalis* has shown a slight decline in the county since 2000.

Some movement was evident, with 18 at Flamborough between 23rd and 26th March thought to involve passage birds. Four flew south at Spurn on 18th September and a week later 16 were at Hummersea. Further southbound passage was again witnessed at Spurn on 4th October when seven were logged, while 26 were on Flamborough on 12th October and 43 were recorded at Long Nab the following day. Seventeen were thought to be migrants on Flamborough on 29th October, while monthly ringing totals of 20 (September) and 27 (October) at Filey were also indicative of passage.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* **A**
Common to abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 139/192: 69% (23) increase 1994-2006, 17% (3) increase 2005-06
The resident and largely sedentary British race *melophilus* has been increasing in the county since 2002.

The first influx occurred in the second week of September, with 11 at Flamborough on 10th and 33 at Spurn two days later. Flamborough then logged 19 on 25th September, when there were an additional 29 at Hummersea. The north-easterlies in the middle of October proved fruitful with 39 at Spurn on 11th, increasing to 76 on 12th, on which date 20 were at Hummersea. Long Nab recorded 47 on 13th, while numbers further south increased to 105 at Spurn on 14th and peaked there at 110 on two days later. At least 30 were on Castle Hill, Scarborough also on 16th, whilst Flamborough recorded its maximum of 43 the next day.

A breeding census at Swillington revealed in 50% increase in the population, while nearby, 38 pairs were present at Fairburn.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia* **A** 1,0,0,0,1

Rare migrant; 10 previous records

Typical in locality, Spurn proved alluring to yet another that unsurprisingly proved to be elusive on 18th August (AR *et al.*) and then again on 21st; it was not seen between these dates. All previous county records have occurred in spring, with the last also at Spurn from 8th–10th May 2002. The only accepted record away from Spurn was in Locke Park, Redcar in May 1967.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* **A** 4,0,1,1,1*

Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant

*** Running totals refer only to migrants**

Present on Thorne Moors from 24th April, where there were at least five singing males present: three, possibly four, singing from the Will Pitts area; a male singing from the 'Rhododendron path' in late May; and another singing from the 'Cassons' area of the Moor. In addition, there was a singing male at Went Ings from 2nd to 25th May (CF: AS). A singing male was discovered at a site near York on 4th May; it soon became apparent that a pair was present and up to four young were noted in June (DS *et al.*).

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* **A** 3,1,7,1,2

Amber list: scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder species

The species breeds across the Palaearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red-spotted race *svecica* breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white-spotted forms *cyanecula* and *namnetum* breed from Spain to the Baltic States and this form has bred in the county, most recently at Thorne Moors.

The only spring record concerned one on South Gare on 23rd/24th May (SM: RCT *et al.*). In the autumn, a first-year male was discovered on the banking north of the Warren, Spurn on 8th September; it later moved onto Clubley's Scrape, where it showed well for the rest of the day (SMo *et al.*).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* **A**

Amber list: rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant; rare winter visitor

Breeds from North Africa to southern Scandinavia, locally in SE England, typically on derelict sites or in town centres, wintering in the south of its range.

It was a very disappointing showing along the coast in both passage periods. The first appeared along Marine Drive, Scarborough on 10th March and the next took up residence at Spurn from 24th to 30th March. Flamborough's first appeared on 25th March and just to the north, a pair spent the day on cliffs at Filey CP on 29th, on the same date as one arrived for a two-day stay at East Newton. Up to two spent time at Spurn from 1st to 5th April, while singles were discovered at both Cromer Point (Scarborough) and Filey on 6th. Two appeared on Flamborough on 17th April, with one remaining on 18th–19th. One lingered on Spurn from 22nd to 25th April, with two present on 23rd, while Flamborough pulled in another on 26th and 27th April. Two were present on Flamborough on 8th May with one still present the following day, while Spurn's only May record was a duo on 9th. Skinningrove hosted a single on 21st May, but the final spring record was a late individual at Spurn on 3rd June.

Mid-summer produced singles at the Point, Spurn on 9th July and another there from 18th to 20th, one at Flamborough on 22nd–23rd and finally, one at Spurn on 28th/29th July. Flamborough attracted one on 19th August, but there were no further sightings until October. Two at Flamborough on 14th preceded four at Spurn the following day, when there were also two at Filey and a single remained at Flamborough. A single was on Marine Drive, Scarborough on 16th October, with eight the same day at Spurn; four were still present there on 17th and then two remained in situ to 24th. A lone individual was at Spurn on 2nd November, whilst the final coastal record was on Carr Naze, Filey on 16th November.

Inland records included singles on Kirkholme Point, Hornsea Mere on 8th April and at the Fleet Oil Depot, Leeds on 3rd May. There were two early August records; Thornton Moor Res on 4th and Duck Street Quarry, Harrogate on 7th. A female was at Wilsic on 26th September and again on 1st November, while the last were two in gardens at Skelton from 11th–13th October.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **A**

Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 17/192

A male at Weston Park, Otley on 31st March was early, with the next at Hebden, Upper Wharfedale on 12th April, followed by another at Horbury Wyke two days later. The first coastal record was a single at Flamborough on 19th April; thereafter it was a dire spring, with nine bird/days at Spurn, five at Flamborough, three at Filey and none at Scarborough. Spurn logged the first of autumn on 13th August, with maxima of four there and at Filey

on 19th August. Very few appeared during September, with best counts of five at Filey on 16th, 13 at Spurn on 17th and five at Flamborough on 24th. A single at Thornton Moor Res on 29th September was a relatively late inland record, while the last was at Long Nab on 17th October; one of only three individuals along the Scarborough coast during the entire autumn.

Breeding was proved in Upper Wharfedale at Hebden, Bastow Wood and Long Ashes, but it was another poor breeding season around Malham (as per 2005), with just two pairs located. The number of records in the Bradford area increased, with breeding recorded at Strid Wood, Timble Ings, John O'Gaunt's Res, Norwood Bottom and Dob Park. Although there was no proof of breeding around Halifax, there were two singing males at Hardcastle Craggs. Territorial males were heard singing in the Upper Little Don Valley, Midhope Res, Whitwell Moor; there were singing males at 13 sites in Sheffield recording area, including four at Wharncliffe Chase and four at Upper Thornseat and a pair was watched feeding young at Langsett. In the east of the county there were four males along the Derwent between Wrench Green and Forge Valley in late April, with another at Mowthorpe. During the summer, birds were also present in Langdale Forest, Stainsdale, Raincliffe Woods and three pairs were at Bridestones.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* **A**

Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 2/192

Nationally declining migrant that winters in Africa, with some evidence suggesting a decrease in its breeding range in the Pennines.

A similar pattern to the preceding species, with very poor numbers noted during spring. The first arrived at Spurn on 21st April, with others at Pit-House West, Hummersea and High Road Well Moor in Halifax the following day. The spring maximum was a mere six at Filey on 15th May and the number of bird/days recorded at Spurn was a poultry 43. Filey logged an early 'autumn' migrant on 23rd July and singles followed at Scarborough and Spurn over subsequent days. However, the main influx coincided with the north-easterly winds in the third week of August: ten were on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 18th; 36 at Spurn also on 18th; 12 at Filey on 19th; ten at South Gare on 19th; and 19 were logged at Flamborough on 20th. Lower numbers featured during most of September with maxima of: nine at Filey on 13th and 24th September; seven at Buckton on 17th; 13 at Flamborough on 24th, 24 at Spurn on 16th and 17 present there on 24th. The last at Spurn was recorded on 7th October, while further north a single was in Hundale, Scarborough on 15th October. However, inland one was at Cononley on 26th October, with two at Coney Warren, Bradford on 28th. The latest proved even more reluctant to depart and remained at Silverwood Pit Tip from 1st–5th November.

There were relatively few reports of breeding received, although in the north-east a pair bred at Dimmingdale, Cleveland. A slight increase was noted in the vicinity of Blacka Moor near Sheffield, but only one pair was proved to have bred in Calderdale, at Cold Edge Dams.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* **A**

Amber list: scarce breeding resident and uncommon autumn/winter visitor. BBS 7/192

The race found in Britain, *hibernans*, is nationally increasing.

Small numbers wintered across the county in the first period, with eight at Swillington the highest count. Numbers increased along the coast in mid March, with three newly arrived at Filey on 15th and five at Spurn three days later. Records again increased during October with four at Filey on 10th, 15 at Spurn on 12th and five at Flamborough on 15th. Inland this same period brought nine at Blacktoft Sands on 9th October, 12 to both Owenhope and Glovershaw during October and ten were near Fly Flatts on 23rd October.

Along the coast, breeding was proved at Hummersea, for the second consecutive year at Filey and suspected in the Flamborough area, with juveniles present there during June. Inland, a pair bred on Thorne Moors; 13 pairs bred in the Bradford recording area, raising 30 young; six pairs bred in Halifax; breeding pairs were present at 14 sites in the Harrogate district; and at least ten pairs were in the Sheffield area.

Individuals attributed to a continental race included two at Flamborough on 25th March, with one still present the following day and others on 17th April and 12th September. At Spurn there was a single at the Point on 24th March, with two present a day later and another on 15th/16th April.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* **A** 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; two previous records

Filey's first rare wheatear was discovered in a set-aside/stubble field near the Blue Dolphin at 1630hrs on 14th October (CCT *et al.*); amazingly it shared the same field with a Richard's Pipit and a Short-toed Lark. The easterly winds responsible for its appearance at Filey also helped displace two others to northwest Europe;

Isabelline Wheatear ○
Jack Ashton-Booth

Seine Island on the French side of the English Channel hosted one on the same day, with another on Heligoland, Germany on 15th. Yorkshire's two previous records were at Kilnsea from 21st–23rd October 1990 and at Whitestone Point, Whitby on 26th September 1998.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* **A**
Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant. BBS 29/192
Widespread in Europe and as far north as Greenland, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara. Has previously declined markedly in its breeding range on the Pennines.

Cool northerlies stalled immigration and, after an early single at Nosterfield on 12th March, there were no others until one at Whetstone Gate on 23rd; the first coastal record was four at Spurn on 24th March. Small numbers featured during the first couple of weeks of April, before 38 made landfall at Flamborough on 19th, 62 at Whitley Common near Ingbirchworth the next day and 47 were at Spurn on 21st. However, the main influx occurred on 23rd when: 120 were on South Gare, 43 at Spurn, 37 at Flamborough, 35 at Filey, 11 at Atwick and inland, 29 at Onesmoor, Sheffield. The 25th witnessed a pulse of new arrivals and 83 were at Spurn with 30 at Scalby Lodge. Appreciable counts in May included nine at Long Nab and 23 at Filey on the opening day and then 14 at Flamborough and 35 at Spurn on 3rd. A female that lingered on Carr Naze, Filey until 14th June was the last along the coast, whilst the same site hosted an impatient juvenile on 7th July. Autumn passage was described as abysmal, with eight the maximum at Flamborough on several September dates, four the best count from the Scarborough coastline and ten at Filey on 16th. Spurn fared little better with the only double-figure count 22 on 8th September. Spurn's total of 160 bird/days was very disappointing; the last inland records were at Redmires and Paull Holme Strays on 23rd October and on the coast, at Skinningrove on 28th October.

There were few indications of how successful breeding was in the uplands, although it was scarcer than usual at Dallow Gill Moor, Harrogate. Breeding wasn't proved in the north-east of the county, although nest building was observed at Lockwood Beck Res.

The presence of the Greenland sub-species moving through South Gare was proved through a co-ordinated attempt to trap spring passage birds; 24 were processed between 17th April and 6th May and attributed to this race.

RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 8/192
Breeds in upland Britain, but principally a passage migrant from northern Africa/southern Europe.

The first appeared on 11th March at Dale Head, Malham Tarn and was well in advance of a more general inland arrival in the last week of the month, with singles at Upper Burbage Bridge (SK2683) and Walshaw Dean, Halifax on 25th and Kilnsey, Upper Wharfedale on 26th March. The initial coastal arrivals came some time later, with a single at Spurn on 9th April the first. Passage then peaked at the start of the third week; nine appeared over a seven day period at Filey from 18th; Spurn logged six on both 15th and again on 23rd and Flamborough produced seven over five dates, after the first on 17th. This influx was also reflected inland: eight were near Great Close Scar, Malham between 8th and 14th April; seven were at Barden Fell on 15th; nine were at Blackmoorfoot on 17th; ten were at Fylingdales on 18th and finally, 21 were at Scar House, Harrogate also on 18th, which included a flock of 19 (15 males). A single near the hotel at Ravenscar on 14th May was the month's only coastal record.

Breeding was proved at Rainscar, Malham, at two sites in the Harrogate area, although birds were present at a total of seven sites during the breeding season. Two pairs probably bred at Grassington Moor, while further south a pair bred at Walshaw Dean, Halifax. However, it was considered a poor year in the Halifax recording area, with only 26 records from ten sites and breeding was not recorded in the Bradford area. Pairs also bred in the Upper Don Valley, Mickleden Beck and Sugden Clough, while near Sheffield there were three broods at Howden Edge (SK1992) and another at Burbage Rocks (SK2682).

The first along the coast in autumn was a single at Spurn on 24th September, but it wasn't until the advent of easterlies in October's second week that any appreciable arrival occurred. Seven were on Flamborough on 11th and 15th; 15 were at Spurn on 11th, with another 15 logged there three days later (plus six more at Sammy's Point). The final influx occurred on 26th October, when singles appeared at Flamborough and Spurn and three made landfall at Filey. All were associated with an influx of winter thrushes, in particular Redwings, and this was reflected by 'vis mig' near Sheffield; a single flew west over Redmires with Redwings on 26th and the following day two headed south-west over Redmires, with two more south over Rod Moor. A single at Flamborough on 2nd November appeared to be the last, until an exceptionally late bird at Walshaw Dean on 8th December.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* **A**
Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 161/192: 48% (15) increase 1994–2006, 4% (-3) increase 2005–06
Emigration was noted from mid-March when numbers started to build at coastal locations. There were 70 at Spurn on 19th March and this number then increased to 92 on 24th. Thirty were present in the Top Scrub, Filey on 29th March, while numbers peaked at Flamborough with 120 on 1st April. In autumn numbers picked up during the second week of October with 275 in off at Filey and 150 at Flamborough on 11th. There was a more general arrival in foggy conditions and easterlies on 14th October with 120 at Flamborough, 150 at Spurn and 250 at Filey. Numbers rose at the former two sites over subsequent days, with 127 at Flamborough on 15th and 210 at Spurn the next day. Light southerlies on 25th induced another influx, with 600 making landfall at Filey during the day and 300 logged at Spurn. Spurn recorded the year's highest count with 1500+ on 2nd November, with 780 arriving at Flamborough the same day; this arrival included a combination of birds reaching the coast at great height and continuing directly inland and many others immediately grounded. New arrivals continued in the first third of November, with other notable counts at Spurn including: 420 on 3rd; 514 on 9th; 336 on 16th and finally, 200 on 25th November. Although such influxes are seldom noted inland, 52 flew west over Scar House Res on 4th November.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. BBS 3/192
An entirely migratory species that breeds in Scandinavia and northern Europe east to Siberia, often passing through the county to winter further south and west.

Winter flocks in the first period included 405 at Tophill Low on 26th February, 430 at Sherburn Ings on 12th March, 500 at Staveley on 29th March, 600 at Thornton Moor Res during March, 500 at Malham Tarn on 2nd April and 1000 at Sandwith Moor on 7th April. Inland, one at Hutton Conyers on 4th May was late, while along the coast there were singles on the Country Park, Filey on 28th May and then sheltering near Church Ravine, Filey during a severe thunderstorm on 12th June.

First to return was one at the Point, Spurn on 16th August, with possibly the same present from 13th to 16th September in the same area. Despite favourable winds, very few made landfall during October, with peaks of:

35 at Flamborough on 19th, 22 at Filey on 26th October and 91 at Spurn on 30th October. Numbers rose during November with high counts at Spurn of 703 on 1st, 635 on 9th and 114 on 10th; 250 came in off at Filey on the latter date.

Immigration was again much more obvious inland than along the coast. The Bradford recording area noted 10,000 passing over, generally in a westerly direction, between 27th October and 6th November. On the former date 550 flew SW over Redmires, 763 went south at Rod Moor, 1500 flew west over Queensbury and 770 tracked west at Paul Clough. However, it was the first three days of November that witnessed the largest movements, starting on 1st with a westerly movement of: 620 over Swillington, 1500 over Cononley Ings, 500 through Barden Scale, 440 west at Northowram and 1150 over Southfield. Numbers peaked on 2nd November, with: 860 over Barden Scale, 1200 west over Redmires, 6525 south at Rod Moor, 1200 through Swillington, 860 over Paul Clough and 550 west at Wintersett. The following day produced 3125 WNW over Redmires, 2530 west at Rod Moor and 1000 over Walshaw Dean. The final large movement occurred on 9th November, when 1000 flew over Blake Dean, Halifax.

Flock sizes built during November/December and included: 600 at Beal Carrs on 18th November, 400 at Eccup on 22nd November, 1000 at Lindley Wood Res on 19th November, 500 at Scammonden on 2nd December, 600 at Luddenden on 4th December and finally, 1250 at Dallow Moor on 9th December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 121/192: 42% (19) increase 1994–2006, –4% (3) decrease 2005–06
The first autumn influx coincided with light easterlies; with 12 migrants at Filey and 14 on Flamborough on 16th September, followed by 24 at Spurn and 42 at Flamborough on 22nd September. Two days later there were 43 at Spurn, 20 at Flamborough and six migrants at Buckton. However, the main influx took place the following month, with 1225 in off at Filey, 500 at Spurn and an impressive 2800 grounded on Flamborough on 11th October. Three days later 150 were logged at Filey and 220 more at Flamborough, while further south there were 200 at Spurn on 15th and 250 present there the following day. Relentless westerlies then stalled further arrivals, until winds abated on 25th October and 300 came in off at Filey.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* **A**
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor
Breeds from Iceland to eastern Siberia, but birds wintering in the county are mostly of Fennoscandian origin. Possibly bred at Flamborough Head in 2003.

Wintering numbers were low at either end of the year, with 150 at Burniston on 8th January, 136 in Filey on 28th January and 250 at Tophill on 27th February. Numbers then increased along the coast in March as birds refuelled before setting off across the North Sea; Spurn logged 220 on 27th and 616 on 28th March, while just to the north 1000 at Easington on the latter date lifted off in the evening and headed east out to sea. Tardy singles included one at Spurn on 18th May and another at East Lea, Filey on 29th May. More unusual was one at the Point, Spurn on 6th and 18th June and an early returning individual at Wire Dump on 28th August. Inland, two overflew Caldene Fields, Bradford on 9th September, while singles at Spurn on 16th and Flamborough on 24th September were the only coastal records for the month. Winds switched to the east during the second week of October and on 11th 300 were grounded at Filey, 625 at Spurn and 1000 at Flamborough during misty conditions. Three days later there were 350 more at Filey, 520 at Spurn and 2272 at Flamborough, while the following day numbers increased dramatically at Spurn with 5500 logged, but numbers declined at Filey and Flamborough, with 1686 remaining at the latter location. That immigration was still continuing on 15th was evidenced by 500 heading inland over Buckton. The easterly airflow and heavy overcast continued to envelop the coast with 700 at Filey, 1500 at Spurn and 310 at Flamborough on 16th, but a switch in wind direction over subsequent days stalled further immigration. It was not until 25th October that a new wave of arrivals was logged, with 200 over Filey and 1900 at Spurn, followed by an additional 334 at Spurn on the penultimate day of October. Visible migration along the South Pennines produced some exciting movements during October and included some fantastic counts in the final week. Movement over Bradford was witnessed from 7th October through to 5th November, with a grand total of 9900. However, the first noteworthy count came further south, when 120 flew west over Redmires on 12th October. The same location hosted the next movement when 218 flew west at dusk on 20th, while 615 flew west there the next day. However the main passage on 21st was centred over Bradford with a grand total of 3800 heading in a generally westerly direction and included 720 over Caldene Fields, 1080 through Denholme Clough and 2000 heading over Thornton Moor Res. The next two days were a prelude to the main event; firstly 885 flew south over Rod Moor on 25th October, while the

following day counts included 1180 west in 30 minutes until dusk at Redmires, 500 west over High Batts between 0930–1000hrs, 400 over both Morley and Swillington and 155 west at Beal Carrs. However, it was the events of 27th October that were truly mesmerizing; 17,315 flew SSW in four hours over Redmires (RDH), while an incredible 30,225 flew south over Rod Moor in three hours (KC). This movement was reflected to a lesser extent elsewhere, with 'several thousand' over Baildon Bank, 2800 through Paul Clough and 770 south over Blackmoorfoot between 0800–0930hrs.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident and scarce passage migrant
BBS 73/192: –52% (–28) decrease 1994–2006, –42% (–13) increase 2005–06
Nationally declining since 2000, a welcome recovery in fortunes was noted in BBS surveys, with population increases particularly noted in North and East Yorkshire.

Unusually 85 flew south over Watton Carrs on 10th February, while post-breeding flocks included 50 at Scaling Dam on 22 July, 50 at Barden Scale during early September, 52 at Fairburn on 5th August and 44 at Castle Carr, Halifax on 28th September.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* **A** 1,1,2,3,2
Rare visitor; 17 previous records
Breeds in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration is likely to occur, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.

One wintered at Blacktoft Sands from 6th January through to 28th March and was heard singing at the start of the latter month. Presumably the same individual then returned on 22nd November and was noted again on 8th December. Showing the value of experience, the Blacktoft site management team then discovered another on an 'away-day' at Wheldrake Ings on 6th January; although often elusive, it stayed until 26th March. However, the most important series of records came from Tophill Low where a male was present from the start of the year. Two were present on 12th February; the male established territory and breeding was proved when young were being fed on 24th May. Two were still on site on 24th December.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 1/192
This secretive West Palearctic species winters in West Africa. There has been a substantial national population decline since the 1970s, but local populations fluctuate annually.

Relatively scarce along the coast, with the first at Southfield Farm, Spurn on 20th April when another two were at South Gare, followed by one at Scalby Beck on 22nd April and Flamborough on 3rd May. Autumn migrants included one trapped at Filey CP on 15th/16th August; one at Hummersea on 25th August; singles at Middle Camp, Spurn on 16th and along the Canal at Spurn on 17th September; finally, a late single sheltered in a ditch on Filey Golf Course on 15th October.

Singles at Bradway, Sheffield and Oldhay Brook, Totley on 15th April were the first inland, with another at Gleadless Valley LNR the following day. By 19th April there were five reeling at Blacktoft; one singing at North Cave on 3rd May was new for the reserve list. Breeding territories were well distributed, with the following sites favoured: four were reeling at Margrove Ponds; twelve at Blacktoft; five at Bolton-upon-Dearne; six were reeling at Fairburn; nine on Thorne Moors and four were reeling on Barnbow Common.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* **A**
Fairly common breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. BBS 10/192
Breeding from Ireland to central Siberia, this trans-Saharan migrant breeds in the county on low ground around lakes, along waterways and also in oilseed rape fields. Nationally it is slightly decreasing.

Swillington Ings hosted the first on 14th April with others at Spurn and Welton Waters the next day; however, migrants were much slower to arrive further north, with the first at Filey Dams on 23rd April.

There were 53 pairs at Fairburn Ings and said to be 'good populations' at Woodlesford, Swillington Ings and Lowther Lake, Leeds. 'Maintaining breeding population levels' in Bradford, with ten singing males at Marley SW on 16th May, but there were only 25 territories occupied at Wintersett (38 in 2005). Further east, 22 singing males were logged in the Southfield recording area on 19th June, there were eight in territory at Spurn (same as 2005) and sample surveys indicated 250 territorial males at Blacktoft. Ten singing males were holding territory in the ditches at Starr Carr, Scarborough and indicated the strength of the population that must occupy this extensive habitat. Inland, a single at Rodley NR on 26th September was late, with the last along the coast at Spurn on 1st and 11th October.

PADDYFIELD WARBLER *Acrocephalus agricola* **A** 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 3 previous records

One of the year's highlights was discovered near Beacon Ponds, Spurn on 13th August (TMc *et al.*). A first-winter, it was trapped and ringed to confirm identification. Although a very early date, its weight suggested that it had had chance to feed-up over previous days. Unfortunately, there was no sign of the bird the following day. This constituted the first for the Spurn area, with the previous county records as follows: a first-winter trapped at Flamborough on 27th September 1992; Marske on 18th September 1994; Redcar on 31st October 1996.

Paddyfield Warbler ○
Jack Ashton-Booth

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* **A** 3,1,1,2,3

Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant; occasional rare breeder

This trans-Saharan migrant is widespread through the Western Palaearctic, but its small breeding population in southern England is declining.

Three records in the middle of June were typical for this late 'spring' migrant. The first was heard singing at Spurn on 12th June and was trapped the following day (CG: MFS *et al.*). This was quickly followed by a second bird at Spurn; with one trapped at the Warren on 14th also heard singing (BRS *et al.*). Further north, one sang in an overgrown ditch at Reighton, Filey on 18th June (JH *et al.*).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **A**

Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 10/192

The nominate subspecies breeds in the western Palearctic and winters south of the Sahara. Although restricted by habitat requirements, nationally the population has been spreading northwards and westwards, and this pattern is reflected in the county.

The first to arrive headed straight into breeding territories, with singles at Mickletown Ings on 16th April and Coatham Marsh on 18th April. The general consensus is of a species doing relatively well, as evidenced by colonization of newly established reedbeds on Fairburn's spoil heaps, leading to a doubling of the population across the reserve to 88 pairs. Likewise, new reedbeds at Otley Wetlands were quickly occupied with 12 juveniles present at the end of the breeding season. In the north of the county there were two territorial males at Margrove Ponds, while numbers at Wykeham Lakes increased to 21 singing birds in June; there were five singing males at Filey Dams and five pairs breeding at Spurn. A census at Wintersett revealed 68 territories (52 in 2005). Inland late birds were at Swillington on 25th September and Fairburn on 5th October, while the last were singles at Flamborough on 15th and Spurn on 17th October.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* **A** 1,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 12 previous records

An elusive male held territory in buckthorn at the Point dunes on 27th May (RJB *et al.*). Although it sang regularly, obtaining good views proved difficult and many had to be content with flight views only; perhaps surprisingly, this constituted only the third record for Spurn and the first since 1989.

The last county record was a singing male at Hummersea on 19th May 2002.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* **A** 25,7,10,10,4

Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn

This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. First-winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid-September. Nationally one in seven records is in spring.

A poor year, with the only record in spring discovered between the Tip and Country Park at Filey on the evening of 10th June (AN). More surprising was that autumn only mustered three birds, which all appeared during north-easterly winds in mid August. The first remained elusive in the churchyard at Spurn on 18th August (JAB: AR), with another the same day at Castle Hill, Scarborough (NWA). Finally, one made landfall at North Landing, Flamborough the following day.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* **A**

Common breeding summer visitor/passage migrant; scarce wintering species

BBS 85/192: 109% (58) increase 1994-2006, 11% (5) increase 2005-06

Breeds throughout most of Europe. The significant increase appears to be continuing as recent mild winters have encouraged wintering in Britain and northern Europe and early return migration.

Wintering birds during January/February were widely distributed with: two at Spurn; two at Skelton Castle; three in Boothtown, Halifax; another at Jerusalem Farm, Halifax; one at Filey Dams; two at South Cave; singles at Gledhow in Leeds, at Bingley, Burley, Riddlesden and four in the Harrogate recording area.

Although difficult to be sure, males at Otley on 25th March and then Hove Edge, Halifax on 1st April probably related to the first spring migrants. Coastal passage started with a single at Spurn on 14th April, with higher spring tallies of ten at Spurn on 25th April and 13 there on 1st May.

A total of 29 pairs were in residence at Fairburn (20 in 2005), whilst there were 75 territories at Wintersett (86 in 2005). At least fourteen singing males were holding territory at Filey on 9th May, which included five in Church Ravine, the most ever recorded here. Migrants started to re-appear along the coast from early September, although numbers didn't increase substantially until mid-October: Spurn logged 12 on 11th, 15 on 13th and 22 on 16th October; Flamborough recorded six daily from 10th, while 13 were at Filey on 16th October. Numbers slowly decreased with only single-figure counts in November, with the exception of ten at Spurn on 8th.

Wintering individuals in December included three at Spurn, singles at Hull, Cloughton, Westwood in Scarborough, both Gledhow and Oakwood in Leeds, Bingley, Riddlesden, Flamborough, two at Catwick, two in Stockbridge and up to nine in the Harrogate recording area.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* **A**

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 21/192

A summer visitor from Africa which breeds throughout most of Europe in suitable habitat.

One at Rodley NR on 12th April was early, with others not arriving until the last week of April; a singing male at Northowram on 23rd the next. Spring passage along the coast was again poor, after the first at Flamborough and Spurn on 26th April. Thereafter, there were only six bird-days at Flamborough in May, with daily maxima of three at both Flamborough and Spurn and an overall spring tally of just 21 bird-days at the latter site. Eight were logged at Filey from 1st – 13th May. Eight held territory at Temple Newsam Woods, 12 were singing at Elland GP on 5th May, there were seven occupied territories at Fairburn and 24 at Wintersett (32 in 2005). In the east, 11 singing males were recorded at Wykeham Lakes on 8th June.

Autumn began at Spurn on 5th August, with higher counts there of 11 on 16th August, 18 on 18th August and 13 on 17th September. The same weather system was reflected further north; with 11 the best at Flamborough on 18th August and Filey's maximum was seven on 19th August. Spurn's last came on 10th October, another was at South Gare on 12th and finally a single was on Castle Hill, Scarborough from 17th-19th October.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* **A** 24,12,16,26,12

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

Breeds through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first Yorkshire autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280 occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.

A multiple arrival on 18th August, with singles at Southfield Farm and the Point, Spurn (AAH: JWi *et al.*) and singles at Coastguard Cottages, Flamborough (JMP) and Carr Naze, Filey (CCT *et al.*). The following day, a single was discovered at Buckton (DW). The Point individual at Spurn was sporadically noted up to 26th, but several new birds were also unearthed there, underlining the site's premier status for the species: at Wire Dump on 19th (JHol); Beacon Lane on 20th–26th August; Lighthouse on 22nd (RJB: MCx); at the Warren on 23rd and 26th August (JG *et al.*) and, finally, Canal Hedge from 26th–29th August (S&DC *et al.*). The lack of September easterlies was reflected by a completely blank month, but there were two October records: at South Gare from 10–14th (IJF *et al.*) and finally, a showy individual at South Landing, Flamborough from 23rd–29th October (KB: C&PT *et al.*).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* **A**

Fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 15/192

The nominate form is a summer visitor to Western Europe, migrating to the south-east to its wintering grounds in northeast and central Africa.

Spurn recorded the first along the coast on 23rd April; while inland others were at Rodley NR, Fairburn, Tophill Low (3), Pulfin Bog and Wintersett the same day. New arrivals on 24th included singles at Scalby Mills, Coatham Marsh and Went Ings. Milder weather in the first week of May encouraged further arrivals, with eleven at Spurn on 3rd, ten at Flamborough on 6th and six at Filey on the same date. Although there appears to be a decline in the Bradford area, there was also evidence that numbers were doing better elsewhere. Spurn had eight successful pairs, an increase of one from 2005, while there were eight pairs at Fairburn (five in 2005) and 15 territories at Wintersett (12 in 2005).

Numbers again built with the advent of north-easterlies in the middle of August; Flamborough recorded ten on 19th when 19 were logged at Spurn. September was quieter although Spurn logged 11 on 10th and Flamborough had four on 17th. Only a handful present along the coast in October, with the last on 16th at Spurn. However, a very late bird was seen at the Point, Spurn on 19th November (JMT, NP).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* **A**

Fairly common to common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 84/192: 10% (37) increase 1994–2006, 10% (10) increase 2005–06

The western European nominate form winters in the vulnerable semi-arid northern Sahel zone.

Fairburn produced the first on 12th April, then two at Pit-House West, Rotherham on 15th, followed by singles at Spurn and Swillington on 16th April. Coastal passage peaked during May with 60 at Spurn on 5th May, while better counts at Flamborough included 18 on 11th and 14th May, 19 on 25th and 23 on 28th May. Light south-easterlies at Filey on 15th May induced eight to make landfall around the Country Park.

In terms of the number of pairs present/occupied territories the breeding season appeared to be a good one. A total of 51 pairs bred at Spurn (49 in 2005), there were 43 pairs at Fairburn, 17 singing at Rodley NR (12 in 2005) and 56 territories at Wintersett (52 in 2005). Indicating the suitability of the habitat, a 2.7km stretch of the Guisborough Branch Walkway held 17 territorial males.

Autumn's main passage occurred during mid August with 63 at Spurn on 16th, 12 at Filey on 17th and 38 at Flamborough on 20th August. September produced very low numbers, with a best of 21 at Spurn on 5th, while there were only two October records, both from the same locality: two on 1st and one on 15th. An extremely late single was discovered on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 16th November; it appeared large and long-tailed, but unfortunately couldn't be assigned to race and wasn't relocated the following day (AAH).

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* **A** 1,1,0,1,1

Rare migrant, almost annual in recent years; 35 previous records

Breeds through the Mediterranean from NW Africa to western Turkey and Israel, and winters in North Africa. There are four races, two of which have been recorded in Yorkshire.

A male was trapped and ringed at the Warren, Spurn on 2nd June (PS: JWi *et al.*). Incredibly the same individual relocated to the Farne Islands the following day, where analysis of digital photos allowed the ring number to be read from the bird 'in the field'!

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **A** 4,2,2,15,2

Rare migrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 62 previous records

The European and W Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to W Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent.

One was photographed during its stay near Old Fall Plantation, Flamborough from 19th to 21st August (AMA: SB: PAL: IM *et al.*). The second made landfall down the coast at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 25th and 26th August (JWo *et al.*).

TWO-BARRED GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus* 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; first record

The European and W Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany

During the early afternoon of 16th October a wing-barred phyllosc was discovered on the south side of Arndale, Filey. Initially elusive, it eventually gave good views and its true identity established (DG: CCT *et al.*). It was successfully twitched by over 350 birders, most of who were rewarded with good views until dusk on 18th. This constitutes only the fourth British record of this distinctive sub-species; previous records were on Scilly in October 1987 and September 2003 and one in Norfolk in October 1996.

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* **A** 8,75,56,12,2

Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 373 previous records

Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in SE Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.

It was a disappointing autumn, with the lowest return since two in 2001. The first was discovered in Arndale, Filey on the afternoon of 16th October, but it was overshadowed by the presence of two much rarer phylloscs within 250 metres (TM). Spurn's latest ever appeared in the Crown and Anchor car park on 26th November and then moved into Kew Villa garden, where it was trapped and ringed (JHol: MJP: NM).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* **A** 29,117,50,245,58

Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland and in spring

This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to SE Asia. It mostly occurs from mid-September to early November, and since the mid-1980's numbers have significantly increased.

The first appeared on 16th September, with two in the Spurn area (one to 18th) and another two at Filey. A new immigrant made landfall at Filey on 18th and remained until the following day. Singles at Castle Hill, Scarborough and Kilnsea on 23rd were the forerunners to four at Spurn on 24th (one to 25th), with another four at Flamborough (four still present there on 25th), two new arrivals at Filey (one in Church Ravine to 27th) and another at Aldbrough. The final September records were at Bempton on 26th and in South Landing, Flamborough on 28th/29th.

A single was in Old Fall, Flamborough on 1st October with another at Easington the same day, followed by one that remained in Church Ravine, Filey from 3rd to 17th. The next appeared near Easington on 8th followed by one at the Blue Bell, Spurn on 9th October; the number of new arrivals then significantly increased with the advent of a north-easterly airstream from the latter date. One was near the Tip at Filey on 10th with new individuals at Filey and Flamborough the following day, when six arrived at Spurn, including three at the Crown (two of which remained until 13th and one to 19th). Spurn logged two new birds on 13th (one to 14th), with three more arriving on 14th, with the bird at the Narrows lingering until 16th and two appeared at Hummersea also on 13th. A single took up residence around Filey Dams car-park from 14th–20th when three arrived at Flamborough; one of these still remained at North Landing the next day, when a new bird was discovered at the Lighthouse. Other fresh arrivals on 14th frequented Holmpton and Buckton (latter present to 16th). Singles were at the Coastguard Cottage Gardens and the Allotments, both Flamborough and at Kilnsea on 16th, with new birds at South Landing, Long Nab and Parish Wood, Filey on 17th. St Mary's Church, Scarborough hosted the next on 18th, while the following day one was in Old Fall, Flamborough and at the Crown, Spurn (to 21st). The year's last was at Whitby on 28th October.

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **A** 0,2,1,2,2

Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 38 previous records

This south Siberian species winters in SE Asia.

Two were discovered on 16th October; the first was located in the Top Scrub, Filey first thing (PC *et al.*). It was still present the next day when it was trapped and ringed. Only Filey's third, it was appreciated by the large numbers of birders who were twitching the nearby Two-barred Greenish Warbler. The second was at South Gare (WIB *et al*); amazingly, this bird occurred on the same date and in the same bush as the Radde's present there the previous year!

Radde's Warbler o
Jack Ashton-Booth

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **A** 0,3,1,2,1

Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 32 previous records

This species breeds in through Siberia to north-east China wintering from Nepal to south China. It is usually a late autumn visitor.

What appeared to be a blank year was rescued with the discovery of one in the Point heligoland trap on 9th November (PJA *et al.*). It was released at the Parade Ground where it was typically elusive during a long-stay until last seen on 20th November.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

BBS 1/192

The breeding range of this trans-Saharan migrant is restricted to woodlands on the upland margins extending up to the Arctic Circle, with Britain's nationally declining population on the western edge of its breeding range. Declining locally.

The decrease continues. The only coastal records in the first half were one trapped at the Point, Spurn on 26th April, one at Grimston on 3rd May, two at the Point, Spurn on 10th May (one remaining the next day) and one singing on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 15th May. Inland, transitory individuals were recorded at Flatts Lane, Cleveland on 29th April; at Thunder Bridge on 4th May; the University Campus, at York on 13th May and Smallthorne LNR, at Castleford on 10th June.

Potential breeders were noted at the following locations: in Upper Wharfedale on 12th May; up to two singing at Hardcastle Craggs from 18-31st May; Gilling Wood, Ryedale on 20th May; North Dean Woods, Halifax; Yearsley Moor from 25th-28th May; Mitchell Hagg, Ryedale on 27th May. There was a continued decline in the Bradford recording area, with 11 singing males noted at six locations. In the Harrogate area, there were two singing males at Guisecliffe on 26th April, with other territorial males at Hackfall, Skrikes and Birk Cragg Woods. Singing males were heard at several sites around Sheffield, with the best locations as follows: five singing at Wyming Brook (SK2786), three singing at Greno Wood (SK3295), three singing in Wharncliffe Wood and four singing at Strines. Breeding was also proved in Rivelin Valley (SK2986).

In the autumn singles were at Sammy's Point and around Kew Villa/Church on 13th August, with the latter trapped and ringed the following day, while another turned up at Spurn on 15th. A single at Swillington on 17th August was the first there for ten years. North-easterlies and rain proved productive on 18th August with singles at Castle Hill, Scarborough; Filey CP; Flamborough; and four at Spurn, including three in the churchyard and one at Wire Dump. The last were singles in the Crown & Anchor car park on 9th September and Beacon Lane two days later.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* **A**

Common breeding summer visitor; scarce in winter

BBS 47/192: 32% (9) increase 1994-2006, -36% (-26) decrease 2005-06

Six wintered around the Swillington Ings-Skelton Lake complex in the first period, with others at Selby, Fairburn, Lindley Trout farm in Leeds, Leeds City Centre, Hull, Leven, Tophill Low, Farham, Bishop Monkton, Otley Wetland, Marley SW, Ulley CP, Rother Valley CP, Catcliffe Flash, Fulwood and Aldwarke SW.

The first perceived migrants included one singing at Knotford Nook 24th March, with additional singing males at Elland GP, Blackburn Meadows NR, Rother Valley and two at Scarborough the next day. Along the coast numbers peaked in April, with nine the maximum at Spurn on two dates, seven at Filey on 15th and finally, eight at Flamborough on 16th. Although widespread during the breeding season, the following were of particular note: ten nests were discovered at Flatts Lane in Cleveland; there were 19 pairs at Fairburn (14 in 2005); 12 were singing at Elland GP; there were 12 territorial males along Scalby Beck between Hackness Road and Scalby Mills; there were 40 territories at Wintersett (44 in 2005); finally, it is considered to be increasing in the Malham area.

Autumn passage was meagre and reflected the lack of favourable weather conditions; higher counts included seven at Filey on 15th, 23 at Spurn on 16th October and 12 at Flamborough on 17th October. Wintering birds during December were recorded at: Skelton Castle; Fairburn; Filey; Blacktoft; five at Swillington Ings; High Royd SW; Eccup Manor Rd, Leeds; Jennyfields; Dowley Gap; and Ulley CP.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **A**

Amber list: common to abundant breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

BBS 95/192: -18% (-29) increase 1994-2006, 0% (-1) no change 2005-06

The populations of this species, the commonest trans-Saharan passerine migrant, have been declining in Europe and in southern and eastern England, and this year a decrease was particularly noted in south-east Yorkshire.

Early arrivals were recorded at Rother Valley on 29th March and at Thrybergh CP two days later. However, northerlies stalled migrants along the coast, with one at Filey CP on 5th April in advance of the next on 11th. Peak spring counts included 48 at Spurn on 21st April, 34 at Flamborough and 28 at Filey the following day and 54 at Spurn on 25th April. The spring tally of 280 bird/days was considered very low.

There were few reports indicating the health, or otherwise, of the breeding population, although a pair successfully bred at Spurn for the first time in several years; there were 69 pairs at Fairburn (30 territories in 2005) and it was considered a good breeding season across the Denton Estate, Bradford.

Returning migrants started to appear from 28th July, when six were at Spurn and higher counts there included 47 on 10th August, 62 on 15th and 44 on 18th August. Further north, the latter date proved productive at the other coastal hot-spots with 47 at Flamborough, 35 at Filey and 30 at Castle Hill, Scarborough. Numbers continued to build at Flamborough over subsequent days, with 54 on 19th and 76 on 20th August. Very few were logged along the coast in September, while inland singles were at Sharrow (SK3485) on 9th October and Gleadless Valley (SK3683) on 15th October. Spurn's last was present on 15th/16th October, with 710 bird/days logged there during the autumn passage, which was considered a disappointing total.

Individuals showing characteristics of the *acredula* race included singles at Flamborough on 16th and 18th April, 3rd May and two on 5th May, followed by one at Filey on 13th May.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant. BBS 22/192
Breeds from Britain east to Japan, northern birds are migratory responding to cold weather and breeding success.

Coastal passage began on 22nd March, but numbers remained low with maxima in mid-April of nine at Spurn, eight at Filey and nine at Flamborough. A single was unusual at Spurn on 15th July, with the next on 30th August and then ever present from 6th September to the end of November. There was no repeat of the large numbers witnessed in 2005, with a maximum of 50 at Filey on 16th October and 50 at Flamborough the following day, in a spell of very promising winds and a heavy overcast. Numbers similarly peaked at Spurn during the same period, with 75 there on 14th, 61 on 15th and 97 logged on 17th.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* **A** 160,86,76,30,32
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995 and 2001
This species breeds mostly in southern England, with north European populations migrating south-westwards to winter around the Mediterranean and providing a double passage on the coast.

The first was in Kilnsea churchyard on 29th March, followed by singles at Sammy's Point the next day and at the Blue Bell on 1st April; by 2nd there were four in the Spurn area. The same day also proved productive at Flamborough, where there were another three (two trapped in the Coastguard Cottage gardens and the other at Old Fall). Subsequent individuals were: at Willow Cottage, Easington on 3rd; at the Point, Spurn on 7th/8th April; Sammy's Point on 11th; South Landing, Flamborough on 12th; trapped at Flamborough on 14th; in Kilnsea churchyard on 14th/15th; another trapped at Flamborough on 15th. Two were located in Flatmere on 16th April when one was singing at the Point, Spurn. The last two of spring occurred later in the month, with one in Filey CP on 26th April and a singing male at Wire Dump, Spurn three days later.

Autumn was one of the quietest on record, with the first on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea from 10th-14th September, then at the Blue Bell, Spurn from 14th-17th September, followed by one trapped at Filey CP on 23rd September. Flamborough's sole record was discovered in Old Fall on 1st October, while the only other October record was trapped in Filey CP on 24th. Late individuals at Beacon Lane on 16th November and Kew Villa, Spurn on 20th November brought a poor autumn to a close.

There were very few records away from the coast, with the first at Tophill on 15th April. However, of more interest was a singing male at Redmires from 14th June to 6th July, with intriguingly, another singing at Blacka Moor on 16th June. One wintered at Dowley Gap from 19th December into the New Year.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 13/166 in 2005, 7/192 in 2006, all North Yorks. Nationally declining, - 40% 1994-2006
Distributed across the western and central Palearctic, this long-distance trans-Saharan migrant is usually one of the last to arrive, in mid-May.

Flamborough described migration as being "over in a flash", Fairburn had a blank spring, while it no longer breeds in Filey; fortunately, some records from other areas were a little more encouraging. For example, around the Bradford area more were recorded than for several years, with reports coming from previously unrecorded locations and the species was described as on the up near York.

The first were singles in Church Field, Kilnsea on 25th April and a creditable inland record of at Blake Dean, Halifax on 29th April. One at Beamsley on 27th April was the earliest in the Bradford recording area since 1993 and their second earliest ever. In May Spurn had up to five on fifteen dates. Seven were at Hardcastle Craggs on 8th May and six were at St. Ives on 28th May; the highest number there in 25 years. Despite the poor showing in BBS, which only recorded breeding in North Yorkshire, breeding was also established in Barnsley, Bradford, Cononley, Halifax, Hull Valley and Sheffield. On 14th July a party of 13 was at the Scar House Road, Harrogate and 12 were at Redmires Res. on 12th August and four were at Luddenden Dean on 22nd August; all these groups involved family parties. At least 15 were at the old Grassington Hospital on 25th August and the Bradford area's latest ever record was of a bird at Paul Clough on 25th September. The last of the year was a single present at Spurn on 14th/15th October.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* **A** 29,18,26,10,3
Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring
Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid August to mid November.

It was a poor year, with only three. A first-year bird was trapped and ringed at the Warren, Spurn, on 4th October (AAH *et al.*) and remained in the area until 6th. Another was at Kew Villa/Crown & Anchor in Kilnsea from 11th-13th October and one was at North Landing on 17th October (PAL).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* **A**
Increasingly uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 3/192
A summer migrant to the Western Palearctic from western Africa, the breeding range in the county is largely restricted to the west and north, usually associated with Sessile Oak, and is highly dependent on nest-boxes. A small number of pairs may well breed in the extreme south, probably representing an "overspill" from the Derbyshire population.

In April a singing male in Cliff Wood, Barnsley on 19th was the first of a quiet spring, followed by one in a Cayton garden on 22nd April and another in Kilnsea on 25th; three days later six were near Bolton Abbey.

A singing male was heard in the second half of May at Hardcastle Craggs and four occupied nest boxes in the Harrogate area produced 25 young. Provision of nest boxes is also considered a major factor behind successful breeding in the Bradford area; from a mere 29 nests, a total of 193 young were ringed.

Mid-August produced some impressive counts along the coast: ten were at Castle Hill, Scarborough; 22 at Flamborough and 55 at Spurn on 18th and 43 were at Flamborough the following day and 19 there on 20th.

October witnessed one at Filey on 3rd, another at Spurn the next day and finally the last, at Hummersea on 19th.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* **A**
Amber list: scarce and local resident breeder; occasional irruptive immigrant
The population was estimated at 300 birds at its traditional stronghold at Blacktoft Sands. Elsewhere, Spurn had its first ever January record with a female from 22nd lingering until 22nd April. A single was at Staveley NR from 7th to 21st February. Potteric Carr attracted a pair on 26th March, but then there were no extralimital records until October; two were in the Canal area at Spurn on 15th and 16th, one of which was trapped and ringed. Another was at Wintersett Res between 14th and 16th October.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* **A**
Common resident except on high ground in west.
BBS 47/192: 118% (-12) increase 1994-2006, 183% (-3) increase 2005-06
Reported in good numbers from many areas, no doubt reflecting more mild winters and a good breeding season, with significant counts including: at least 80 in Temple Newsam Woods on 2nd January; 80+ at Drewton on 22nd July; 49 on Thorne Moors on 15th March; and flocks of 40 at Tophill Low on 27th May, Lingham Water on 9th July, Wheldrake Ings on 31st August and High Batts NR on 26th September. Fifty were at Flamborough on 7th July, but the most significant were 130 south at Rod Moor on 27th October. A Merlin took one of four at the Warren, Spurn on 29th March.

The two white-headed *caudata* race birds from 2005 remained in the Easington area until early January, before one relocated south towards Spurn, where it was last seen on 11th April.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 143/192: 47% (20) increase 1994-2006, 24% (-3) increase 2005-06
Probably under-recorded because of apparent abundance, the largest reported flock was of 40 at Bretton on 21st January. Thankfully detailed data came from two areas; in Harrogate, two sites with 40 occupied nest boxes produced 304 young and in Leeds 33 boxes yielded 192 young. Additionally, a number of dormouse boxes were found to have been used by Blue Tits and, somewhat bizarrely, near Ripon a pair reared young in a metal hood covering a padlock, despite the lock being opened and closed several times each day!

Evidence of any migration is very limited, the only significant comment referring to five heading south off the Point at Spurn on 13th October.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 129/192: 99% (54) increase 1994-2006, -23% (6) decrease 2005-06
Again poorly recorded, although reports suggest that it is less abundant than the former species; 24 nest boxes in Gledhow Valley provided 149 young. Some significant counts come from the Sheffield Bird Study

Group recording area: 47 in Beeley Wood on 21st January; 36 in Woolley Wood on 23rd February; 36 Parkin Wood on 7th March ; 20 plus (mostly juveniles) Skier's Spring Wood on 2nd July; 22 on 4th November in Listerdale Wood. Spurn had a noteworthy count of 30 on 17th June and there were also 29 birds noted in Bretton Park on 21st January.

Spurn noted a marked spring passage, with 76 ringed during March and April and 80 south between 25th March and 30th April, including 61 on 26th March. Elsewhere recorded movement was limited to two south from Carr Naze, Filey on 25th March and five flying north-west along the cliffs at Boulby on 30th March. There is also some indication of movement from ringing recoveries; with birds ringed at Spurn found in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire and birds ringed in Norfolk and Derbyshire being re-trapped at Spurn.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* **A**

Common resident and passage migrant in small numbers. BBS 35/192

The nationally increasing, sedentary race *britannicus* is thinly distributed throughout. In West Yorkshire 12 pairs were counted at Hardcastle Craggs on 24th May and 16 males were holding territories in the vicinity of Wintersett Res. In South Yorkshire, 20+ males held territories at Langsett Banks, with 15 similarly at Sheephouse Wood; while in the Sheffield Bird Study Group recording area significant numbers were observed: 14 singing males at Hall Wood on 18th February, with nine singing at Beeley Wood on 5th March. At least 20 were in Wharncliffe Wood on 9th April, many of them singing, while in July, a minimum of 20 were at Broomhead Res on 8th and 15 were at Bretton on 21st January. Post-breeding records near Scarborough included 20+ by the railway between Long Nab and Hayburn Wyke on 18th September and at least 25 at Ravenscar the same day. The species was described as very common in the north-east of the County and detailed observation on 18th December noted one hundred visits to a feeder by Coal Tits in just five minutes, compared to only ten by Great Tits and three by Blue Tits.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montana* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon and declining resident, scarce in the east. BBS 6/192

Nationally the British sedentary race *kleinschmidti* of this boreal Palearctic species has decreased by 69% 1994-2006.

Fortunes varied, with some areas lamenting a decline, but still noted as a 'fairly common resident breeding bird seen throughout the area' at Wintersett. Status was stable at Old Moor and Fairburn and bred 'in small consistent numbers'. Up to four around Barnsley from several sites, including Langsett Banks and Midhopestones, while in the Halifax district the only record was of a single at Bradley Hall Farm on 31st December. In Harrogate Willow Tits are scarce local residents and though breeding was observed, some parts of the district noted fewer birds than usual. Bradford produced only three records of what is becoming an ever scarcer local bird, in March, April and September, while up to four were regular across the Sheffield Bird Study Group area, with up to six noted quite frequently at Ulley CP and seven, including three singing males, at Harthill Res on 30th March.

In the east five were reported at Hornsea Mere on 15th September and two visited a Guisborough garden throughout the year. Records from coastal sites were mixed; at Spurn, where this species is becoming increasingly scarce, one was present on 31st July and one appeared to come in off the sea on 9th September at Flamborough and then remained until 14th. Around Scarborough, Willow Tits are still described as 'widespread, localized' breeders.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident, scarce in south-east and south-west. BBS 3/192

This Palearctic species prefers large broad-leaved woodland.

Small numbers can be seen throughout the year in Forge Valley and other locations around Scarborough and a few may breed in the extreme north-east of the County. In the Harrogate district it is a thinly distributed local resident, though up to six regularly visited feeders in High Batts NR with a maximum of ten there and six were in Birkham Wood on 25th November. Two were in Strid Wood on 3rd January and at Nosterfield NR on 8th January. One or two birds were in the Leeds area and Upper Wharfedale in April and Potteric Carr had an unusual record, with one on 26th March. The best reported counts came from the Hull Valley, where 10 were at Drewton on 28th January with six there on 22nd July and eight on 28th October. Brantingham Dale held seven on 23rd February and Weedley had six on 18th November.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* **A**

Uncommon to fairly common resident, scarce in south-east. BBS 7/192

A very sedentary West Palearctic species that has increased nationally and casual records suggest this is also the trend in Yorkshire, although any spread is very slow.

Records are increasing and in West Yorkshire there were records from central Keigthley and in the nearby Worth Valley, where they had not been recorded for at least 30 years. In the Leeds area the species was commonly reported and often found in gardens in several areas, including Ben Rhydding, Baildon and Silsden. Other counts included nine in Strid Wood on 29th April, ten in Wolley Wood on 5th March, ten in the Lower Ewden Valley on 8th April and 20 around Studley Park/Fountains Abbey on 4th March.

Spurn had its fourth record with one at The Warren on 3rd June.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* **A**

Fairly common resident, absent from higher ground. BBS 18/192

The sedentary British population of the race *britannica* is probably stable in the county, following national trends, with occasional migrants of the nominate form possible on the coast.

It remains well distributed across many mature woodlands, though this species is susceptible to over-zealous tree surgery, as evidenced at Filey which had a detrimental effect on the local population. Unusual observations included one in a garden in Bingley in early February, one found dead by an atrium window at CSL, York on 8th November and repeat nesting in wooden pallets forming the roof of a ladies toilet at Farnham GP! Six was the highest total from Dob Park. A nominate race individual was at Flamborough on 12th April.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **A** 9,2,2,8,3

Amber list: rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but are more likely to be of continental origin.

Three records at Spurn in spring, all of immature birds. One was at Wire Dump between 5th and 9th May (BRS *et al.*). A male was singing at Kew Villa early on 17th May (PCo: AR) and the third record was of a single, again at Wire Dump, on 25th May (RSc).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* **A** 32,6,19,12,14

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce passage migrant; formerly bred

This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa.

A total of fourteen individuals were recorded, all on the coast. The first was an early male at Easington from 7th-9th May (AJS *et al.*), followed by a female in the same area on 4th-5th June and another male there on 6th. Other June records from nearby Spurn included different males on 4th and 5th, with females there on 6th and 17th; elsewhere a female was discovered at Flamborough on 13th (AMA). Autumn records comprised a male by Easington on 26th-27th August, with a juvenile there on 9th September. Filey had only its second record since 2002, when a juvenile showed south of the Glen on 16th September (JH *et al.*) and a juvenile was near Scalby Beck, Scarborough the following day (MF *et al.*). Also in the Scarborough area a juvenile was at Cloughton Beck from 24th-26th September (NWA *et al.*) and another juvenile was further north at South Gare from 17th-25th of the same month (CVG *et al.*).

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* **A** 0,0,0,2,1

Rare migrant; 12 previous records

Breeds from France east to central Asia, wintering in Africa.

An adult tentatively identified by the landowner inland at Ryton, near Malton on 24th June was confirmed the following day; it remained until 26th, but wasn't present thereafter (DGF: MGH: LMR *et al.*).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* **A** 10,29,11,18,3

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds from Scandinavia eastwards through to North America, with birds moving south in winter. It occurs as a coastal passage bird in the county, but small numbers also winter inland in Britain.

An extremely poor year, with all three reported in October. Two of those were from coastal sites, with one seen for only twenty minutes at Long Nab on 16th October (NWA) and another near Muston Grange, Filey on 18th (AN). A more unusual record was one at Pugneys CP on 24th October (IB).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* **A**

Fairly common resident, and scarce migrant, absent from high ground. BBS 19/192

A combination of its secretive nature allied to its preference for large oak woodlands tends to restrict records; lack of habitat means it is scarcer at the coast. Highest inland counts were of 12 at Cragg Vale, Halifax on 22nd October, nine at Rodley NR on 12th April, eight at Beacon Hill, Halifax on 5th August and counts of seven at: Potteric Carr on 16th April; Margrave Ponds on 22nd July and four sites in the Bradford area. On the coast, Spurn had singles on 6th May and 17th/18th of the same month, while Filey's sole record was a single on Long Lane on 4th September.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* **A**

Abundant resident. BBS 97/192: -30% (-1) decrease 1994-2006, -18% (-4) decrease 2005-06

Some areas continue to report rises in number, while others note decreases, perhaps the result of population control by gamekeepers. It is less frequently observed in the higher reaches of the County and some coastal areas. Flock sizes are highest in winter months when birds are gathering to roost with counts of 30-50 in a number of areas between January and April, particularly in West & South Yorkshire; the maximum being 62 at Potteric Carr on 29th January. The latter part of the year produced the highest counts with 64 roosting in the Calder Wetlands, Wakefield on 10th November and an impressive 265 in Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds on 29th December. Old Moor and Fairburn Ings RSPB recorded 28 and 14 breeding pairs respectively, while four pairs represented an increase at Spurn.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* **A**

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 108/192: 94% (27) increase 1994-2006, 8% (-10) increase 2005-06

The resident British race *spermologus* is still relatively numerous particularly in North Yorkshire and on upland margins.

Probably under-recorded and the commonest corvid in some parts, highest numbers invariably comprise of flocks moving to roosts during winter months. Counts of up to 50 are frequent with totals in excess of 200-300 also reasonably common and 'hundreds' were roosting in Spiggot Hill Wood by Malham Tarn. More significant higher counts included up to 1500 at Yeadon Tarn in January/February and 1000 going to roost near Halifax on 29th October. However, easily the most eye-catching were a massive 20,400 arriving into the corvid roost near Tophill Low on 2nd March (RL). Breeding is widespread, exemplified by Studley Park, Harrogate which, with suitable nesting habitat, regularly has up to 200 birds present.

Individual birds showing features of the eastern race (*C.m. soemmerringi*) were noted at North Cave Wetlands on 21st February and Staveley NR on 22nd April, while two aberrantly plumaged birds were recorded in the Scarborough area on 2nd January and 30th August.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* **A**

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 101/192: -49% (-7) decrease 1994-2006, -24% (-3) decrease 2005-06

The local populations of this Eurasian species are mostly resident, but form communal winter roosts. Under-recorded by many local societies, an interesting observation in Scarborough was the increasing population visiting the town centre. Flocks containing 200-400 birds were regularly observed, with 8400 Rooks at the Tophill corvid roost on 2nd March, this total having built from 2400 on 26th January. Elsewhere, significant totals included 800 flying north-west over Wintersett Res on 18th November and 2000 in pig fields at Scampton, near Scarborough on 29th July.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* **A**

Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

BBS 174/192: 132% (21) increase 1994-2006, 30% (6) increase 2005-06

Has become one of the county's most widespread birds, possibly due to a reduction in keepering activity and increasingly noted in urban areas.

Population increases continue, although most comments refer to a rather vague 'very common'. Some coastal passage occurred in spring, with 327 moving south and 14 arriving in off at Spurn on 23rd March, while 119 moved past Flamborough on 23rd April. Two large flocks comprising 260 birds in total were at Scalby Lodge on 15th October and the most notable count inland was of 250 at Swillington Ings on 14th August.

Ever resourceful, the species' intelligence was demonstrated at Filey, where one individual frequently flew in the air and dropped mussels onto the rocks in order to access a food source. A hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow was reported from the Halifax area on 16th November.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* **A** 1,8,9,6,3

Rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory and no doubt account for sightings on the east coast.

Three singles constituted a quiet year. At Flamborough singles were at Northcliffe on 4th April and presumably the same on the golf course the following day. One was at Beacon Ponds on 23rd May (JAB) and one, reported from Hornsea Mere on 22nd November, was presumably the individual located at the site in January 2007.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* **A**

Scarce but increasing resident in west, rare in east. BBS 5/192

This Holarctic species used to breed widely until persecution began 200 years ago. Retains a foothold in the west and recently has increased in the Yorkshire Dales.

It increased in Halifax, with a maximum of seven at Fly Flats on 5th September and similarly numbers rose in the Bradford recording area, with seven at Warley Moor Res on 5th September. Up to three were recorded from high ground near Sheffield, while seven records from Barnsley, again with a maximum of three. Elsewhere a single was briefly over Swillington Ings on 11th February and at Leeds/Bradford Airport there were two over on 19th February and another there on 12th March. In Cleveland, a single was at Sleddale on 27th February with three from 1st-6th April. One was watched mobbing a Marsh Harrier at Scaling Dam on 5th June. On the coast, Filey's second ever was on the Top Fields for thirty minutes on 22nd April and one was present at Spurn on 6th November.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor, but has decreased

BBS 114/192: -45% (-27) decrease 1994-2006, -21% (-5) decrease 2005-06

British and north European populations have been declining and it has been decreasing steadily in Yorkshire, although an increase in population size was noted in East Yorkshire BBS squares.

There are good breeding populations throughout, with post-breeding flocks encountered in a number of locations: 360 at Flamborough on 11th June; 500 at Wintersett Res on 5th July and 2000 roosting at Durkar Flats, Wakefield in early August. The resident populations are substantially increased by immigration from the east in winter as exemplified by the roost at Flasks Lake reedbed rising from 200 on 16th August to 28,000 by 14th September and peaking at an impressive 40,000 in early October. In September, the roost at Staveley built from 3000 on 9th September to 15,000 on 25th and by 12th November numbers had reached 30,000. Not all immigrants are visible, but 9110 were seen arriving in off at Spurn between 18th October and 28th November, including 1600 on 30th October and 6500 on 16th November.

Large town/city centre roosts in the urban west of the county are now much reduced, but on the coast 2000 congregated at Scarborough on 26th February and 1000 roosted at Filey on 3rd November. Poetically, Leeds Birdwatchers noted 'a murmuration of 1000 birds' over Lowther Lake near dusk on 5th November.

ROSE COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* **A** 11,4,1,7,1

Rare visitor in spring and summer; 69 previous records (70 birds)

This irruptive species breeds from south Ukraine and central Turkey east to Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, occasionally breeding in south-east Europe.

The only record was an adult photographed in a garden at Eastfield, south of Scarborough on 4th-5th June (CP).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: abundant resident but has decreased

BBS 93/166 in 2005, 94/192 in 2006: -19% (-6) decrease 1994-2006, -14% (-6) decrease 2005-06

Closely associated with built-up areas from urban centres to farms.

It is not easy to determine whether the national decline is reflected across the County, as very few records are received; in part this is perhaps related to the species' chosen habitat which is frequently urban and,

consequently, not at locations where there are many observers. Those reports that were received suggested mixed fortunes; in parts of the Harrogate district, 'there is some evidence of a numerical recovery', with flocks of 100–120 recorded. In Scarborough, the species is described as still hanging on in places, whereas in Filey a good-sized colony resides in ivy on a town centre bank building, using seed in the nearby Memorial Gardens aviary as a convenient food source. However, the present Filey population still represents a substantial decline from its mid-1980s levels when around 500 birds gathered post-breeding. Nevertheless, a flock of 250, mostly juveniles, was seen on 15th July with most adults still in the town centre; 80 were noted in the Memorial Gardens on the same day. Some seasonal movement was recorded at Spurn with 27 moving south between 29th March and 17th April (maximum 15 on 31st March) and 194 heading south between 17th September and 25th October; the largest counts 27 on 4th October, 34 on 8th October and 51 on 21st October. Elsewhere, 150 were at Buckton on 20th August.

An unusual male sparrow was regularly seen at a seed feeder in a Guisborough garden. It had an extensive black bib, squared off at the base, spreading to the sides of the chest and extending along the flanks, with black streaking. The crown was grey and the bill black, indicating that the bird was in breeding condition. This bird could have been an abnormally plumaged House Sparrow, but there is also the possibility that it was a hybrid with Spanish Sparrow *P. hispaniolensis.*

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident; very recent population recovery. BBS 40/192
This species looks to be increasing in a variety of locations, although the Bradford area reported a marked downturn. Increasing availability of feeders and nest boxes is clearly of benefit, with 100 pairs utilizing nest boxes around Wintersett Res and its nearby villages, enabling 295 nestlings to be ringed between 12th May and 1st August, with several broods not being ringed. At Old Moor 49 pairs (42 in boxes) successfully fledged 190 young and at a farm at New Marske a mere 11 pairs raised 112 young, the highest productivity there for at least 10 years. Two sites at Filey logged a total of 145 on 4th October; there were 120 at Crook Ness, Scarborough on 2nd September and Old Moor attracted 300 on 6th January, with regular counts of 200+ there. Elsewhere, Thrybergh CP had peak counts of 200 in February/March with 140 in September and 100 in December. Sixty-five were at Blacktoft Sands on 14th September.

Seasonal passage at Spurn was more obvious in autumn than in spring. Between 19th March and 14th May a mere 43 birds moved south, the maximum being 13 on 29th March. In sharp contrast, numbers were much higher in autumn, with 2517 south between 20th August and 29th November and peaking in October. There were seven daily counts of more than 100, with maxima of 194 on 3rd, 350 on 7th and 620 on 21st October.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* **A**
Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS169/192: 49% (17) increase 1994–2006, 0% (1) no change 2005–06
There was a substantial southerly movement along the coast in late March and April, although it was most evident at Spurn. At Scarborough 24 flew south at Jackson's Bay on 27th March, followed by 150 the following day. At Spurn 62 were grounded on 26th March, with similar counts over subsequent days; however, visible passage was more obvious totalling 7147 south, including 6925 between 23rd March and 6th April. On eight days totals exceeded 400 and included 1253 on 27th March, 1045 on 28th and 1357 on 1st April.

An early-autumn passage started with 224 grounded at Spurn on 16th September; many of which appeared to be underweight and were feeding at the road side. Inland visible migration in the Bradford area peaked in late September/early October: at Paul Clough 646 passed through, with a maximum of 102 on 29th September; at Denholme Clough 410 were recorded, with a high of 114 on 25th September and at Thornton Moor Res the total was 304, with a peak of 50 on 8th October. Several days later, 90 moved south at Blackmoorfoot Res on 12th October.

Winter flocks included 220 at Upper Thornseat on 19th January and 70 were in a wild bird crop at Lower Falthwaite above Barnsley on 22nd January. Local populations are generally reported as strong, with Fairburn Ings reporting 63 breeding territories, an increase over 2005 when 39 pairs bred, while in the Cononley area 59 singing males were recorded, with at least 10 pairs breeding successfully. A roost at Thorne Moors held 141 on 1st January, while in November at least 100 were at Walshaw Dean, Halifax on 3rd and, nearby, 170 were at Luddenden Dean on 21st November; a stubble field at Staveley attracted a flock of 120 on 31st December.

Chaffinches sometimes show fungal growths on the feet which can be fatal. They arise from an infestation of *knemidocoptes mites* (*knemidopcoptic mange*) or can result from *fringilla papillomavirus*; two such affected birds were seen in the Harrogate area in April.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* **A**
Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers. BBS 1/192
Breeds from Scandinavia east to the Bering Sea, migrants mostly pass through the county to winter further south, but flocks attracted to beechmast will over-winter while supplies remain.

There were few flocks early on, with 30 in a Silsden garden on 7th January and ten in Wykeham Forest on 8th January and 100 at Upleatham from 19th–25th February. Spring coastal passage included four at Flamborough on 23rd April and ten at Spurn the following day, with the last of spring at Spurn on 11th May.

A single at Spurn from 18th–21st September was the autumn's first, followed by one at Scarborough on 24th. A large influx occurred in October with 210 at Spurn on 11th and by the month-end there were at least 100 at Malham Tarn on 27th. Visible migration logged 96 west at Redmires Res on 27th October and 56 west on 5th November, while 67 passed south-west over Strines on 14th November. In December there were 120 were at Ingbirchworth on 3rd, while at least 100 were feeding on beechmast at Edge Mount on 27th December. Between 20 and 50 were recorded in the Halifax area from mid-November into December.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* **A** 1,1,0,6,5
Amber list: rare passage migrant; 49 previous records
Breeds commonly through continental Europe to NW Africa. The late autumn records this year could possibly all refer to the same individual.

Five records with the first an immature/female south past the Narrows, Spurn on 17th May (AR) and a male again flew south there on 21st May (AR: MJP: JHe: GED). A singing male showed well at The Point, Spurn on 27th and 28th May (AAH *et al.*) and a single bird flew over the Blue Bell on 18th July (PJA). At Flamborough a female was seen near the Coastguard Cottages at Flamborough on 27th May and 3rd June (AMa *et al.*).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* **A**
Common resident and passage migrant
BBS 124/192: 82% (9 increase 1994–2006, 25% (4) increase 2005–06
A mostly European species that is resident in the county, although there is some seasonal movement and immigration from Fennoscandia. Though seemingly a common breeding resident throughout the county, reports often lack detail which is particularly worrying given Greenfinches apparent rising susceptibility to a condition of lethargy and eventual demise caused by the *Trichmonas gallinae* parasite. Evidence of this fatal condition was reported from Guisborough and the Harrogate area.

Immigration augments the resident population with a bird ringed at Brewood in Staffordshire on 18th September 2005 found at Felbeck near Pateley Bridge on 26th January 2006, a north-westerly movement of 100 miles. Additionally, ringing data also indicates that there is some turnover of birds moving through a range of sites. Coastal passage was greatest through Spurn where 1468 passed between 17th February and 12th June, most of those being recorded between late March and mid-April, with 110 on 26th March, 146 on 1st April and 183 the following day. Autumn movement totalled 4693 between 2nd September and 8th December, peaking in October and rising from 310 on 4th, 304 on 8th through to 686 on 21st. Elsewhere coastal counts were lower, although Filey reported reasonably high counts, with 150 feeding on sunflower heads there on 5th November. Scarborough had counts of 50–70 in the early part of the year. Around 200 were also favouring sunflower seeds at Nunthorpe on 21st November. Visible migration over the Pennines was highest in the Bradford district with c.2300 observed from principal watch points at Paul Clough (913), Thornton Moor Res (669) and Caldene Fields (547); the highest day count being 228 at Paul Clough on 26th September, but near Sheffield 256 flew south at Rod Moor on 8th October. A roost at Yeadon held up to 350 birds in January/February and 750 were present on 9th November. At least 125 roosted on Thorne Moors on 1st January and 160 were at High Bonwick on 3rd October. Feeding stations were responsible for several three-figure counts: 100 were at Ripon Park on 5th January, 130 at Old Moor on 8th January and 100 at Wintersett Res on 10th September.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* **A**
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 104/192: 26% (21) increase 1994–2006, 9% (–12) increase 2005–06
Britain's resident race *britannica* mostly winters overseas to the south in France and Spain, but some birds are present year-round in the county, with passage from further north in Britain.

A charm of 150 was at Upleatham on 19th February, while Fairburn Ings suffered low numbers throughout the first half. Spring passage seemed fairly light, with Spurn recording only two counts above a hundred; 116 on 3rd May and 143 two days later. Breeding continues throughout the county and numbers are increasingly

reported from gardens. Typical of breeding reports were the 15 pairs in territory at Wintersett Res. The major influx occurred between September and the year-end; Spurn's autumn tally was smashed for the third year in succession; between 6th September and 28th December a total of 22,597 birds were logged, the majority of those moving in late September and October. There were eight counts in excess of 1000, the highest being 3865 on 4th October. Other coastal records included 300 on rough ground at Buckton on 12th September and 280 at Flamborough on 30th September. Old Moor described the year as poor with a peak count of 250 on 23rd August. In September, other inland sites recorded the following: 100 at Bellflask Quarry on 12th; 100 at Upper Midhope on 13th; 150 at Fly Flats on 26th. A similar count was made at High Batts NR on 23rd October and the largest year-end tally was 150 at Staveley NR on 31st December.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* **A**
Scarce breeding resident; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 5/192
Breeds in upland conifer plantations, but visitors to gardens in winter may include immigrants from northern Europe.

In the first half several flocks of over 50 were recorded with the best including: in January, 110 in Fleet Plantation, Leeds; 80 at Ravenfield Park; 80 at Elland GP; 70 at Potteric Carr; 65 at Ox Close and 60 at Otley Wetland. In the Harrogate area, birds ringed included 73 at Sharrow during February and March and 200 in a Ripon garden from January to April. Seventy were at High Batts NR on 23rd February and 65 at Old Moor RSPB on 25th March. However, the highest inland early-year count was achieved in the Rother Valley, with c.200 at Pit House West on 25th/26th March. Birds moved through Spurn in spring, with a total of 622 south between mid-March and mid-June, with a peak in April when 70s were recorded on five dates.

A singing male was reported from Timble Ings in April, with others in Hutton and Guisborough in June, suggesting breeding. A recently fledged juvenile was seen in Wyming Brook, Sheffield on 30th May and further evidence of successful breeding was noted in other areas of the city in June; two of the records coming from suburban gardens. There was also confirmed breeding near Malham Tarn, in the Dalby, Wykeham and Harwood Dale Forests and by Langsett and Underbank Res.

The first observed autumn movement along the Pennine chain came on 29th August, when five flew south-west over Redmires Res. In October, 46 went south at Rod Moor on 1st, 50 south-west at Redmires on 8th and 80 south at Rod Moor on 25th. In the Bradford district Paul Clough recorded 79 on 26th September. Highest reported numbers at coastal sites were 40 at Flamborough on 24th September and 42 at Spurn on 15th October. A garden at Dore, Sheffield, held 50 on 30th October and 70 were at Dowley Gap on 26th December, while up to 50 were present at Stocksbridge to the year end.

Two interesting ringing returns came from Spurn; an adult female bird ringed there on 29th March was re-trapped at Blauberg in Belgium only seven days later on 5th April, a movement of 433 km south east. A first-winter male ringed at Tain (Highland Region, Scotland) on 12th April 2004 was re-trapped at Kilnsea on 20th March 2006.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident and passage migrant.
BBS 102/192: -19% (-24) decrease 1994-2006, -15% (-16) decrease 2005-06
A partial migrant, with some birds wintering in France and Spain.

The early part of the year produced fairly low numbers though 60 were at Lower Falthwaite, near Barnsley on 22nd January; 450 roosted in brambles on the Hull/Hessle border on 9th-10th February and 150 were in a sunflower field in Sheffield in early January, with 120 still there on 6th March. Spurn's spring passage tallied 5440 between 10th March and 13th June, with highest totals occurring in April, including a maximum of 679 on 22nd. A hundred were at Ox Pasture Farm, Scarborough on 5th March, while down the coast 120 were at Filey on 17th April and 165 at Flamborough on 27th April. A flock of at least 200 was at Flamborough on 22nd July and a post-breeding flock of 200 was at Long Nab on 26th August. September produced the peak autumn movement; southerly passage through Spurn came to 5928 birds between 7th July and 8th December, with three day counts over 700 in late September. At Flamborough, September counts rose from 380 on 23rd to 870 on 30th.

A post-breeding flock of 100, including many young birds, was on Burley Moor on 28th July; 200 were at Wintersett between 17th August and 5th September and a similar count was made at Silverwood Pit on 27th October. The Bradford area had three counts around 150 in September. In October, 120 were seen at Potteric Carr on 19th and at least 180 were at Old Moor on 31st. At least 40 were by Blackmoorfoot Res on 2nd October, but numbers then declined along the Pennines.

Illustrating how far this species can move, a female ringed at Spurn on 24th May 2005 was re-trapped at Linares, Spain on 30th November 2005, 1744 km south.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce resident breeder in Pennines; uncommon migrant/ winter visitor.
BBS 2/192
Birds of the British race *pipilans* breed colonially on moorlands in Scotland, Ireland and in the South Pennines SPA.

In the Halifax area, records were made in all months from twenty-three different locations, no doubt assisted by the creation of feeding stations, with a peak count of 83 on 23rd January. No attempts were made to prove breeding, but some sites clearly produced young. For example, young birds were observed being fed by adults at Scammonden on 5th August. Elsewhere, though breeding was not proved, a singing bird was reported on the Ribble watershed on 3rd July. There were at least 40 at Blackmoorfoot Res on 20th September. Food stations were also attended around Bradford with 37 at Warley Moor Res in late October.

Coastal sites produced good numbers in both winter periods; the Easington area held 50 on 21st January, with 80 there on 1st February, but there were few other reports from elsewhere during the first-half. Later in the year, Flamborough's attracted a wintering flock with 36 on 31st October, 55 on 4th November and 25 on 28th December. Filey's best was 14 on the Country Park on 12th November but Spurn's numbers were lower; the highest being 11 near the lighthouse on 19th September.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* **A**
Amber list and UK BAP species: uncommon/scarce breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor.
BBS 5/192
Breeds in northern and south-east Britain, wintering to the south.

A continued decline was noted at Flamborough, Filey and Wintersett, though the overall picture is not entirely bleak with singing birds heard in Wykeham Forest and at two sites in the Halifax area in May. Males were in breeding territories above Barnsley at Fanhill Moor and at Cononley Ings, where two pairs bred successfully. In addition, a pair was feeding young at Staveley NR on 19th May.

January flocks included: 150 at Leighton Res on 1st; 150 in the Rother Valley on 6th; 28 at Southfield Res on 2nd; 30 at Old Moor on 7th and 25 at Cononley Ings. Thirty were in a game crop in Ripon Park on 2nd March. The autumn and second winter period produced low numbers from many localities. Between September and December a mere 108 were recorded south through Spurn, with 32 on 7th October. However, notable counts included 100 at Broomhead Res. on 24th October, 50 at Fewston Res on 6th December and 120 at Wintersett Res. on 23rd/24th December.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* **A**
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.
This species, formerly known as Mealy Redpoll, (separated from *Carduelis cabaret* by BOU in 2001) breeds further north than *cabaret*, across northern Europe, through Asia to North America. Subspecies also breed in south Greenland and Iceland. During eruption autumns, large numbers migrate through or winter in the county.

Several records refer to birds among 'mixed' Redpoll flocks, mainly of Lesser Redpolls. The year's first was one at Hornsea Mere on 8th January, with further singles at Fairburn Ings on 10th and 15th and Potteric Carr on 29th. In February, four were at Rails Head, Halifax on 8th, while Old Moor hosted one on 11th and two on 13th and Potteric had another on 28th. Four were seen at West End Golf Club, Halifax on 2nd March and Bolton Ings produced six in a 'mixed' flock from 14th-16th, with five still present on 25th. Two were in Haw Park on 18th March and there were also singles at Old Moor on 4th/5th March, Potteric Carr on 12th March and a very tame individual in the car park of the Crown & Anchor, Kilnsea from 25th-28th March. Spring ended with a single with Lesser Redpolls at Fairburn on 23rd April and one at Filey on 1st May.

Scarce in the second half, with two at Spurn on 10th October and a single there on 18th October; at least one at Wyming Brook, Sheffield on 17th December and six at Luddenden Dean on 26th December.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* **A**
Scarce breeding resident, occasionally in numbers following irruption years. BBS 3/192
Resident in conifer woodland across the Palearctic and North America, nominate *curvirostra* includes further forms identifiable by bill size and call, one of which breeds in the county, and others may do so following irruptions.

A pair was seen in Dalby Forest on 14th February and a singing male was heard in Swinden Plantation near Barnsley on 5th May. A juvenile was at Birk Brow, Cleveland on 17th May and while the only proven breeding, undoubtedly several other pairs would have done so. Most coniferous plantations inland of Scarborough held birds with the maximum being 70 at Wykeham viewpoint on 14th May. January flocks included: 25 in the Little

Don Valley; 25 at Ogden; 12 at Fewston Res; 16 at Lindley Bridge; 15 at Birk Brow; three near Blackmoorfoot Res on 2nd and four at Primrose Valley, Filey on 24th. Two flew north-west at Blackmoorfoot Res on 14th April. Twenty were at Ogden on 14th May. Subsequently three flew over the Central Science Laboratory, York on 8th August. Coastal records included three on 25th May and a single on 3rd October at Flamborough and four flew north over Primrose Valley, Filey on 28th May, while two were at Spurn on 3rd July and one flew south there on 17th July. Nearby Easington produced three records, with a best of five at the Gas Terminal on 18th August.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* **A** 10,3,8,5,8

Amber list: scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder (first in 1992)

This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century.

Only eight reports, with the first an unprecedented inland record in January; one was photographed as it visited feeders in a garden in Sheffield from 28th January until 12th March (NR *et al.*).

More conventional, an adult male was at Flamborough on 27th May (AMA) with a female/immature male there on 29th May (IM). A similar bird was at the Point, Spurn on 3rd June (DH) with another 'brown' bird at The Warren on 5th (BRS). A first-winter was at Flamborough on 19th August (PAL) and a juvenile was in the Church Field by Spurn on 8th September. The following day provided the year's last, when one was seen at Easington.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; scarce passage migrant/ winter visitor. BBS 20/192

Birds of the British and Irish race *pileata* are non-migratory, and the marked decline since the 1970's must be attributable to changes in agricultural practices. Nominate race birds from Fennoscandia ("Northern Bullfinch") can migrate long distances and are occasional east coast migrants.

In general numbers recorded were in single figures, though some higher counts were reported resulting either from post-breeding dispersal or immigration; garden records featured quite strongly, demonstrating the importance of artificial food provision with the food of choice apparently sunflower kernels.

Sixteen were at Scalby Beck on 2nd January with ten at Wintersett Res on 9th January, 20 at Old Moor on 31st January and 21 at Thrybergh CP on the same date. In February, ten were at Pugneys CP on 23rd and ten Fewston Res on 28th and Old Moor had a second count of 20 on 30th July. Paul Clough held 20 on 25th September and 13th October, with immigration accounting for 10 at Flamborough on 15th October. At least 15 were in the Gleadless Valley area of Sheffield on 19th November and included a flock of 10. A maximum of 10 were feeding on bilberries in Wykeham Forest on 22nd December, while other double-figure counts included 12 at Bellflask Quarry and up to 10 at Quarry Moor, Ripon and Hay-a-Park.

There were eight pairs on territory at Old Moor and five pairs at Fairburn Ings, with sixteen breeding sites located at Wintersett Res and two pairs held territory at Sheephouse Wood, near Barnsley. Two pairs regularly visited feeders in a Harrogate garden throughout the year, where they fed on sunflower kernels and were accompanied by two juveniles in late July. An adult was found dead there on 30th September, being affected by *trichomoniasis*, as described under the Greenfinch account.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **A**

Amber list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding resident, absent from higher ground and south-east

This Palearctic species is scarce in the UK (3000 – 5000 pairs) and in long-term decline, and this appears to be the case in the county. Occasional migrants are seen on the coast.

There was a scattering of records from across the county, with the establishment of a large flock at Firbeck Hall on the Yorkshire/Nottinghamshire border a throwback to previous decades. On 25th February eight were discovered along the main drive to the Hall, but numbers increased dramatically in March with 30 on 14th rising to 80 on 16th/18th. Thirty remained on 25th March, with several still present in mid-April.

Elsewhere, in January one was at The Warren, Spurn on 8th and constituted the first ever January record there and another was at Wassand on 25th. At Studley Park there were singles on 8th January and 4th February with three on 31st January and five on 26th February. Another was at Scar Gill Res on 27th January. In the Hutton/Guisborough area up to three were seen between January and May, including a singing male heard on 4th March. Another single was at Cloughton, near Scarborough on 28th March. Very few were reported in the second half with singles at Flatmere, Flamborough on 14th September and Scalby Lodge Pond on 11th October. Another was seen at Kettleness on 15th October and the year's last was a single at Wilsill on 28th November.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* **A**

Scarce to uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from the Arctic and northernmost Europe.

Very few were noted in the first half, with no more than two recorded at Scarborough, Filey, Flamborough, Spurn, Aldbrough and Grimston on odd dates until the last flew south at Spurn on 30th March. Spurn also recorded the first returning bird, with a single over The Warren on 8th September. Filey attracted a small party in November, with a maximum of ten on 11th, but none chose to winter and the last was a single in Clubley's Field, Spurn on 2nd December. Inland, one was in the charmingly named Warland/Lighthazzle area of Halifax on 18th October (IMcG).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* **A**

Amber list: uncommon winter visitor; scarce inland

Breeds in the circumpolar arctic tundra, with small numbers in the Scottish Highlands, most of our wintering birds are probably from Iceland.

Small numbers were at several coastal locations early on, but the biggest flock was 100 by Easington Gas Terminal on 8th January; and parties of 48 and 50 were also recorded at Atwick and Holmpton respectively in January. Along the Humber 11 were at Cherry Cob on 15th January and 48 at Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull on 2nd February; this latter group increased to 52 by the following week. A single was flushed from snow-covered ground at Howden Edge, Sheffield on 26th February. Small numbers featured regularly over the last quarter, with 17 over Filey CP on 18th October, 25 at Filey on 13th November and 23 north at Spurn on 24th November. A single attended feeding stations on Thorne Moors between 1st and 7th December and a flock of five was on Cavill House Moor, Dallowgill on 9th December.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident and passage migrant

BBS 88/192: -14% (-19) decrease 1994-2006, 1% (7) increase 2005-06

In January a stubble field at Filey attracted a flock of 64 on 6th which then increased to 140 by 29th. At Swillington Ings a flock of up to 60 was attracted to seed and at Beal Carrs, a feeding station in an arable field hedgerow produced 30 on 12th January, with 20 birds still in the area by 15th March. Elsewhere, feeders in the Harrogate area pulled in good numbers, with up to 40 at High Batts NR in January and very impressive maxima of 150 at Staveley NR on 29th March and 31st December. Beal Carrs proved productive in the last quarter, with 40 or more regular and peaks of 65 on 24th November and 50 on 8th December. Numbers were much lower in the higher altitudes along the Pennine fringe, with only five records from the Halifax recording area and a best of four males at Bradley Hall Farm on 4th May and ten at Kelk Lake in November. Few detailed breeding reports were received, although 23 males held territory at Wintersett and there were 10 singing males at Old Moor.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **A** 2,2,1,1,1

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

Breeds from Spain north-east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub-Saharan Africa.

A first-year male at the Point, Spurn on the evening of 11th September was the only record (AR).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* **A** 2,0,0,4,2

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 57 previous records (59 birds)

Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to the Sea of Okhotsk and winters from Turkestan to south-east Asia and China. There have been a small number of wintering records from Britain in recent years.

Both records came from the Easington and Spurn area. The first was found by Beacon Ponds on 14th October; occasionally showing well, it was mostly seen in flight (GP). A few days later, one showed down to six feet in the Point Dunes at Spurn on 18th October (IDW).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant. BBS 56/192

A Palearctic species which is largely resident in the county, joined by immigrants from Scandinavian in winter.

The highest reported flocks early on were 30 at Blacktoft Sands and 20 at Flamborough on 7th January, with 18 there on 4th February. Post-breeding dispersal produced up to 50 birds at Swillington Ings and 20 were at Flixton Carrs, near Scarborough on 19th September. Visible migration accounted for good numbers in

the Bradford area, with c.100 birds logged between mid-August and late October, with eight the highest day count from Warley Moor Res. on 1st October. Other October records included 24 in off the sea at Filey in a moderate south-easterly wind on 11th and 16 were in set-aside there on 14th. Spurn's autumn passage totalled 377 birds south, with peak passage between late September and mid-October; high counts included 36 on 30th September and 12th October and 53 on 13th October. An increase in numbers of grounded birds produced a high of 40 on 12th October. Additionally, seven came in off the sea between 8th September and 9th December. Artificial food provision attracted good numbers at several sites and included 50 at Staveley NR on 27th December.

The 46 territories at Wintersett Res was a decrease on previous years, but Fairburn Ings recorded 61 breeding territories and Old Moor RSPB had 51 singing males in total. Elsewhere breeding numbers were mostly in low single figures, though Swillington Ings had more than 30 singing males.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident, not on higher ground. BBS 17/192
Breeds in open-country from the Mediterranean to western China.

This species now seems to be restricted to discrete areas of the county containing optimum habitat, although certain areas that may hold populations, for example around Selby, may lack regular observation; birders are encouraged to submit all records.

Counts exceeding ten included a flock of 24 around Easington Gas Terminal in January/February, while 40 were at Willerby Carr on 4th February, increasing to 47 on 3rd/4th March. Stubble fields attracted more than 20 near Bolton Ings in January, 40 west of Filey Dams on 4th February, 28 at Hutton Conyers on 21st February and 26 east of Tophill Low on 12th October. Beal Carrs held a flock of 20 on 16th November, but by far the best counts came from Southfield Res; 140 on 1st January increased to an exceptional 200+ on 4th February.

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Image: Andy Deighton

Category B

Species that were recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but are not accepted by **BOURC** as having occurred naturally since then. Ruddy Shelduck has now been moved into this category.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* **(N Africa, S Eurasia) BDE***
Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status
Some Yorkshire records of this species occur in the summer and autumn months on the Humber, especially the upper Humber area. Approximately 300 post-breeding moulting birds of presumably feral origin occur in the Netherlands at that time, and it is possible that some overshoot. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* that leave Yorkshire to moult in the Waddenzee area of Germany may also "pick up" Ruddy Shelduck on their return later in autumn. Other birds escape from collections however. A feral bird was at York University on 8th April and one at Hebden Bridge on 8th and 9th May.

Four flew north over Mill Hill at Filey at 0745hrs on 2nd June (JH). Unfortunately, they chose to ignore the Dams and arrived at Longhurst Flash, Northumberland at 1600hrs that evening. One flew south at Spurn on 6th June.

Category D

Species whose status is being monitored the **BOURC** (see *Ibis 136: p253*).
Unfortunately, neither of the entries in this category is a true candidate for this classification, and belongs firmly in Category E.

MARBLED DUCK *Marmaronetta angustirostris* **(W Eurasia, N Africa) DE**
An escaped drake was seen on Village Bay, Fairburn Ings, on 27th July.

WHITE PELICAN ***Pelecanus onocrotalus*** **(Southern Europe, Africa and Asia) DE**
One was at Lingham Water on 9th September when it was seen by many people and photographed, before leaving to the north at 11.00. The bird was in good condition and not ringed (MB: RTP: SPW *et al.*).

Category E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the BOU category C or E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category. These letters follow the publication of the BOURC's review of Category C (*Ibis* 147: 803-819).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* **(Australia, New Zealand) E***
A single bird was reported from Seamer Road Mere on both the 2nd of January and the 4th April. Two were at Peasholm Park for much of the year. At Fairburn Ings, present throughout the year, with four being the maximum number of adults seen. One pair bred on the reserve producing three young in late October, all of which perished within a couple of days. This may be the most northerly breeding record in the world? Elsewhere, one was at Hornsea Mere from January to October, one was at Potteric Carr on 30th January, two were present on Yeadon Tarn on 5th March, one was at Flasks Lake on 22nd March, up to four were present at the University Campus, York in April, one was on the River Tees at Stockton from 29th July until 9th September, when it was joined by a second bird and a pair were present at North Cave Wetlands on 16th August. Two were at Potteric Carr on 9th December, and probably the same birds flew east four days later at Southfield Res on 13th, then were present on 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th and 26th.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* **(NC Asia, Siberia) E***
Three white specimens were on Botany Bay, Wintersett on May 14th. A pair of 'Chinese Geese', the domesticated form of this Asian species, was at Scaling Dam from 22nd July into 2007.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* **(Central Asia) E***
The regular bird Fairburn bird was found dead at St Aidan's in early January. One was present at Pulfin & High Eske NR on June 4th and 8th, and one was seen at Hornsea Mere from May to the year-end. Two were in the Nosterfield/Lingham/Flasks area on several dates from 3rd September to early October, with one from 14th to 19th November. One flew over Staveley village and Farnham GP with 1200 Greylags, on 17th December.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* **(Siberia & Alaska) E**
One was associating with the Greylag Goose flock at Flamborough on 28th May. An adult was present with the Greylag flock at North Cave Wetlands from 5th September to the end of month, presumably the Flamborough bird.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **(E Greenland, Svalbard, Russia) AC2E***
One was at Fly Flats, Halifax on 25th June, then moved to Cold Edge Dams where it stayed until at least 24th August. At North Cave Wetlands, a feral bird was with the Greylag flock from 26th August until the end of the month, and one on 16th December was also thought to be feral.

CAPE/SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* **(S Africa) E**
One was at Potteric Carr on 16th February and one flew in to the Park Lake at Wintersett on 28th August.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* **(C & S America) E***
One was at Ogden from 4th to 11th January, one made a brief visit to Filey Dams on 5th January and two were at Hebden Bridge on 6th February. Five were present at Winscar Res on 24th January and six on 21st March, one at Five Weirs Walk, SK38, on 23rd February and two at Knaresborough on 15th April.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys* **(C & S America) E**

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* **(N America) E***
A female was at Hebden Bridge on 6th February and 8th October and another female seen on Wykeham South Lake on 6th March.

SPECKLED TEAL *Anas flavirostris* **(S America) E**
One was at Scaling Dam from 26th Oct to 2nd November.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL ***Anas bahamensis*** **(S America, Caribbean) E**
A drake was at Ingbirchworth Res on 16th August.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **(SW Eurasia) AC2E**

PUNA IBIS *Plegadis ridgwayi* **(S America)**
One was around Aysgarth from 31st July before being taken into care in September.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* **(C & S America) E**
One from 2005 was present at Sharow Mires on the River Ure from 3rd January throughout the year, often interacting with a pair of resident Common Buzzards. An adult with jesses flew by Village Bay Hide, Fairburn Ings on 22nd September.

SAKER *Falco cherrug* **(S Eurasia) DE**
One was seen at Southfield Res on 8th September, the second record for the site.

FALCON Sp.
An adult falcon, watched feeding on a kill at Dunsdale on 2nd January, was thought to be this species. This bird was fitted with a bell on its left leg, indicating a captive origin. A probable Saker was seen over Scalby Lodge Pond on the 7th January. A falcon in the Boulby/Cowbar area on 17th and 20th April was thought most likely to be a Gyrfalcon x Saker hybrid (MAB). A large falcon, with jesses and bells stooped at a Common Pheasant at Throstle Nest Farm, Bishop Thornton on 10th November.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopittacus undulates* **(Australia) E**
A 'blue phase' brightened Filey Dams on 15th April. A blue individual was enjoying liberty in Spofforth on 8th June.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* **(Australia) E**
One was at the Spurn Point on 26th April and another flew north there on 11th September. A grey/white bird flew over Wintersett CP on April 14th, with presumably the same bird at Moorhouse Lane Ponds on the 15th and another at the latter site on June 24th.

AFRICAN GREY PARROT *psittacus erithacus* **(W Africa) E**
One was sitting on a low hedge in Bond End, Knaresborough on 13th September.

ORANGE-WINGED AMAZON *Amazona amazonica* **(S America)**
One was at Spurn at the Warren on 19th and then on the bird feeders on 20th April.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula alexandri* **(India, SE Asia) E***
An example of the captive-bred turquoise variety was in a Bilton garden (Harrogate district) from 5th to 12th January.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* **(Palearctic) E***
On 13th January a report was received that two Eagle Owls were present in an area west of Gouthwaite Res. One was seen on 21st January, two on 24th, one on 29th and again on 2nd, 5th and 6th February. One was at Wilberfoss in May and June. A known escape was in Stewart Park, Middlesbrough, from 1st to 20th November. It then moved into central Middlesbrough, where it remained into 2007.

WHITE-EYE *SP.*
One at Spurn was seen on 25th and 27th May, and also 5th and 6th June.

COMMON CANARY *Serinus canaria* **(Palearctic) E***
One was at the roadside near Great Ouseburn on 27th April.

COMMON WAXBILL *Estrilda astrild* **(Africa) E**
One was at Spurn from 20th to 23rd and 27th July.

RED BISHOP *Euplectes orix* **(Africa) E**
One was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB in early September.

RED-BILLED QUELEA *Quelea quelea* **(Africa) E**
One was at Spurn at the Warren on 30th September.

WEAVER *SP.* *Ploceus sp.*
One seen at Spurn on 27th July and 4th and 5th August.

Additions and corrections to previous reports

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia* **A**
The record of one shot on the beach north of Whitby on 29th March 1849 is now regarded as no longer acceptable by BOU, being associated with the 'Tadcaster Rarities'. The record of one at Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire *c.*1899 is also regarded as insufficiently documented by BOU, so the first accepted record for Yorkshire is now one at Farnham GP in May 1977.

2005 Report Corrigenda

Zino's/Fea's Petrel: north past Flamborough Head on 23rd October (AM Clewes: A Malley: B Richards *et al.*).
Green-winged Teal: the male lingered at Edderthorpe Flash from 27th August till 1st October, not Old Moor as previously published.
Garganey: re the female with two young reported from a quarry near West Tanfield on 17th June; insufficient detail has been supplied to confirm this record with the VC Recorder.
Black-necked Grebe: a single bird was present in the Cut area at Fairburn Ings on 31st March.
Little Egret: a single at Scout Dike Res on 17th and 19th July.
Grey Heron: the heronry at Scampston is in VC 61, not VC 62 as reported in 1997 and 2005. 41 nests were occupied at Bretton Park, at least four nests at Cannon Hall and four nests at Hall Dyke, Huddersfield (all VC 63).
Common Buzzard: a pair bred for the first time in the Huddersfield recording area, successfully raising two young.
Peregrine Falcon: the pair on Scarborough cliffs reared three young, not two.
Avocet: the two birds at Dewsbury SF were present on 25th March, not 23rd as previously published.
Ringed Plover: a pair bred at Dewsbury SF, the first breeding record for the Huddersfield area.
Green Sandpiper: there were winter records from the Carrs area.
Short-eared Owl: One pair raised two young in the Huddersfield area.
Hoopoe: One photographed in a Kirkburton garden, Huddersfield on 28th/29th April.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: the report of two occupied nest-holes on Thorne Moors was erroneous, but an occupied nest-hole was found at Worsborough Res. A pair bred at Chapeltown Park, SK3596, and birds were reported from Dike Res and The Whins, Shelley in the Sheffield area. Two young were fledged by a pair at Wildsides, SE1435. Birds were also reported from the regular site of Adel Dam. Recorded from nine sites in the Huddersfield recording area, which included Bretton Park and one pair bred successfully at Healey House.
Sand Martin: The earliest ever Huddersfield record with one over Colnebridge SF on 7th March.
Swallow: One over Honley, near Huddersfield on 17th March.
House Martin: A single at Scout Dike Res on 20th March and three over New Earswick on 21st March.
Waxwing: Ever present in the Huddersfield area from 1st January-24th April with a maximum of 520+ at Folly Hall on 4th January.
Dipper: Recorded at 29 sites in Huddersfield, with breeding proved at Oxygrains Beck, Hill Top Res, Scout Dike Res and present during the breeding season at seven other sites.
Black Redstart: A female at Oldfield Gardens on 20th-23rd March and a male at Brow Grains Road on 11th-16th September (both Huddersfield).
Redstart: A male at New Earswick on 10th April.
Stonechat: 9+ pairs bred in the Huddersfield area.
Ring Ouzel: A male at New Earswick on 20th March.
Reed Warbler: 45 pairs reported in the Scarborough region were not additional to, but included, the 34 at the Wykeham Lakes complex.
Firecrest: A single in a Lindley Moor garden, Huddersfield on 17th December.
Raven: One pair bred in the Huddersfield area.
Hawfinch: Two at Bretton Park 4th-12th February. Two south in a movement of Redwings over Dewsbury SF on 18th October. One NW over Lindley on 27th October.

2003 Report Corrigenda

Montagu's Harrier: A ringtail flew north over Newbiggin, Filey on 5th May 2003 (J Horton: JM Turton).

Early and Late Dates of Migrants

Species	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Garganey	22nd March	31st October
Eurasian Hobby	22nd April	12th October
Spotted Crake	11th May	15th September
Little Ringed Plover	22nd March	22nd October
Whimbrel	3rd April	22nd November
Wood Sandpiper	26th April	22nd October
Common Sandpiper	1st April	18th November
Little Tern	18th April	30th September
Black Tern	21st April	5th October
Sandwich Tern	27th March	25th November
Common Tern	27th March	29th October
Roseate Tern	7th May	29th September
Arctic Tern	8th April	4th November
European Turtle Dove	29th April	21st September
Common Cuckoo	14th April	15th September
Common Swift	16th April	26th November
Sand Martin	7th March	12th October
Barn Swallow	26th March	26th November
House Martin	26th March	8th December
Tree Pipit	15th April	15th October
Yellow Wagtail	1st April	8th October
Common Redstart	31st March	17th October
Whinchat	21st April	5th November
Northern Wheatear	12th March	28th October
Ring Ouzel	11th March	8th December
Grasshopper Warbler	15th April	15th October
Sedge Warbler	14th April	11th October
Eurasian Reed Warbler	16th April	17th October
Garden Warbler	12th April	19th October
Lesser Whitethroat	23rd April	19th November
Common Whitethroat	12th April	16th November
Wood Warbler	26th April	11th September
Willow Warbler	29th March	16th October
Spotted Flycatcher	25th April	15th October
Pied Flycatcher	19th April	19th October

Gallery

May ○ Spoonbill (Filey Dams) ▸ Jon Horton

January ○ Bittern (Potteric Carr) ▸ Iain Leach

February ○ Whooper Swan (Old Moor) ▸ Keith Pickering

March ○ Hawfinch (Firbeck) ▸ Simon Mitchie

March ● Common Redpoll (Spurn) ▸ Mike Ashforth

March ● Firecrest (Spurn) ▸ Ian Smith

April ● Blue-winged Teal (Filey Dams) ▸ Tony Collinson

April ● Yellow Wagtail (Old Moor) ▸ Keith Pickering

April ● Waxwing (Hull) ▸ Pete Martin

April ● Sand Martin (Hornsea) ▸ Pete Martin

May ● Tree Sparrow (Bempton) ▸ Iain Leach

May ● Black-necked Grebe (Potteric Carr) ▸ Iain Leach

May ● Sanderling (Redlands Quarry) ▸ Martin Garner

June ● Red-necked Grebe (Hatfield Moor) ▸ Simon Mitchie

June ● Western Subalpine Warbler (Spurn) ▸ John Hewitt

July ● Twite (White Holm Reservoir) ▸ Sean Gray

July ● Gannet (Bempton) ▸ Iain Leach

August ● Knot (Filey) ▸ Iain Leach

August ● Wood Sandpiper (Blacktoft Sands) ▸ Keith Pickering

August ● Roller (South Gare) ▸ Dave Mansell

August ● Paddyfield Warbler (Spurn) ▸ Garry Taylor

August ● Roseate Terns (Filey Brigg) ▸ Ian Robinson

August ● Black Tern (Filey Brigg) ▸ Dave Mansell

August ● Little Gull (Hornsea) ▸ Iain Leach

September ● Pectoral Sandpiper (Blacktoft Sands) ▸ Simon Mitchie

September ● Pomarine Skua (Seabird Cruise) ▸ Lawrie Phipps

September ● Sooty Shearwater (Seabird Cruise) ▸ Lawrie Phipps

September ● Red-backed Shrike (Scalby) ▸ Dave Mansell

October ● Cattle Egret (Fairburn Ings) ▸ Darren Ward

October ● Two-barred Greenish Warbler (Filey) ▸ Tom Tams

October ● Radde's Warbler (Filey) ▸ Bill Aspin

October ● Barred Warbler (Flamborough) ▸ Dave Mansell

October ● Shorelark (Spurn) ▸ Simon Mitchie

November ● Little Auk (Scarborough) ▸ Dave Mansell

November ● Ring-necked Duck (Middlesborough) ▸ Dave Mansell

December ● Purple Sandpiper (Filey Brigg) ▸ Iain Leach

December ● Great Northern Diver (Filey Bay) ▸ Ian Robinson

December ● Water Rail (Potteric Carr) ▸ Iain Leach

List of Contributors

The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or their initials appear in a local report for the species included in the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

C Abbot
D R Abbott
P Abbott
R Adams
R Adderley
S Adderley
CE Addey
NW Addey (NWA)
J Adlard
R Ahmed
PJ Alker (PJA)
D Allen
R Allinson
AM Allport (AMA)
A Amery
M Anderson
CE Andrassey
S&J Anker
RH Appleby (RHA)
I Appleton
A Archer
M Archer
Prof WG Arnott
I Arnstrong
R Arundale
A Ashforth
J Ashton-Booth (JAB)
A Ashworth (AA)
IA Ashworth (IAA)
M Ashworth
MRK Askew (MRKA)
C Asquith
HR Atack
J Atkins
P Atkins
JE Atkinson (JEA)
L Aukland
N Aukland
I Austin
M Ayres
W Baggeley
P Bagguley
I Bailey
R Baines (RBa)
R Baker
DJ Bamforth
GR Bannister
L&M Bardwell (L&MB)
DC Barker
I Barker
J Barker (JB)
GJ Barlow
K Barnard (KB)
R Barnes
M Barnett
S Barrow (SB)

P Bartlett
C Barwick
S Barwick
A Baxter
JB Baxter (JBB)
JM Bayldon
E Beadhan
HE Beaumont
J Beaumont
P&WA Beaumont
R Bedford
A Bell
C Bell
D Bell
J Bell
M Bell
SC Bell (SCB)
G Benn
GR Bennett
DM Berriman
R Berrington
J Berry
I Beveridge (IB)
K Bewton
C Bielby
G Bilton
J Birch (JBi)
RW Bird
SM Bird (SMB)
M Birley
J Bishop
D Blackmore
M Blackmore
S Blacksmith
CJ Blakeley
M Bland (MB)
L Blaney (LB)
MA Blick (MAB)
N Boatman
RJB Boland
S Boller
P Bone
S Bone
R Boon
AJ Booth (AJB)
H Booth
A Bostock
A Botterill
WI Boustead (WIB)
J Bowers
R Bowles
PK Bowman (PKB)
R Box
K Boyer
DP Boyle
D Brabbs

JM Bradley
CG Bradshaw
M Bradshaw
C Braham (CB)
M Braithwaite
P Bray
A&R Brett (A&RB)
T Bridge
TJ Bridge
G Briggs
P Briglin
RW Brock
C Brogdale
J Brook
M Brook
D Brooks
R Brothers
H Broughton
CJ Brown
M Brown
R Brown (RB)
J Brownbridge
J Brownson
L Bruce
GM Brunton
R Buchanan
J Burnham
S Burns
RJ Butcher (RJB)
S Butler
M Butt
C Butterfield
J Buxton
B Byatt (BB)
D Bye
D Bywater
MP Calvert
S & D Came (S&DC)
JD Cant
PJW Carlton (PJWC)
C Carr
G Carr (GC)
J Carr
M Carr
M&K Carr
N Carr
D Carroll (DC)
MJ Carroll
SA Carson
C Carter
M Carter
N Carter
A Cawthrow
T Chalmers
CS Chapman
G Chapman

J Chapman
M Chapman
S Chappel
R Charles
TD Charlton
J Charnock
S Chippendale
P Clark
M Clarke
R Clarke
K Clarkson (KC)
M Clay
A Claybourne
W Clayden
T Cleeves
W Clements
C Clough
EW Clubley
M Cobley
B Cocckerill
S&M Cochrane
S Cochrane (SC)
A Cockroft
P Colley
ID Collins
P Collins (PCo)
T Collins
T Collinson
J Conlin
D Constantine
M Constantine
M Conway
S Conyers
JM Cook
M Cook
S Cook
T Cook
NM Cooke
A Cooper
J Cooper
M Cooper
CJ Cope
B Copley
TI Corbett
G Costello
V Cotton
R Coursey
C&R Court
IR Court (IRC)
M Coverdale
D Cowan
E Cowan
T Cowley (TC)
M Cowton
M Cox (MCx)
O Crawford

T Crease
H Creber
A Credland
C Critchley
PA Croft
H Crookes
C Crookson
J Crowther
PA Crowther
S Cummings
M Cunningham (MC)
M&P Cunningham
P Cunningham (PC)
M Curtis
WF Curtis (WFC)
JE Dale
JM Dale
R Dale
J&TG Davies (J&TGD)
R Davis
D Dawson
MH Dawtrey
NC Dawtrey
GA Dayes (GAD)
B Decitt
LJ Degnan (LJD)
P Delaloye
L Delbridge
L Demaine
G Denison
T Denney
T&J Denney
K Denny
S Denny (SD)
ML Denton
A Devine
J Devine
AB Devitt
K Dickinson
J Dillon
T Dixon (TD)
GE Dobbs (GED)
C Dodsworth
P Doherty
M Douglas
P Dove
H Doveson
M Doveson
M Doveston
S Downing
A Drake
F Drake
R Dresser
R Drew
IM Duffey
M Duffy
M Dugmore
N Dugmore
K Dunn
PJ Dunn
K Dutheridge (KD)
K Dutridge
H Dye
R Eades
FL Eastwood
K Eastwood
G Edmonds
A Edwards

M Edwards
R Edwards
S Edwards
SC Elliott
T Elliott
G Ellis
R Else
D Elvidge
Y Elvin (YE)
B Emson
M Evans
R Evison
S Exelby
S Exley
CJ Fairchild (CJF)
DG Fairweather (DGF)
M Fanshawe
S Farish
D Farr
K Fawcett
M&A Fearon
C Featherstone (CF)
G Featherstone
T Feltham
B Fiendley (BF)
D Filby
G Firth
IJ Fisher (IJF)
K Fisher
M Fitzgibbons
P Fletche
J Flood
CH Flynn
G Foggitt (GF)
A Forsyth
K Foster
K Foston
K Foundation
CAP Fowles
M Francis (MF)
PR French
RJ Fuller
P Gammage
JM Gardner
C Garner (CG)
M Garner (MG)
J Gatenby
C Gaughan
G Gavanagh
AJ Gear
P Gee
E Gent
G Gent
S Gibbon
AJ Gibson (AJG)
D Gibson
L Gibson
S Gibson
LR Gill
M Gill
L Gillard (LG)
C Gillings
D Gilroy (DG)
C & S Ginger
I Glaves
J Glendinning (JGl)
D Goate
JH Goddard

N Goldthorpe
J Goodhart
D Goodwin
S Goodwin
A Gough
AG Gough
KR Gould
A Grainger
G Grainger
RA Grainger
J Gramauskas
S Gray
I Grayson
P Grba
R Greasley
PK Greaves
M Green
S Green
BH Greenacre
CV Greenley (CVG)
A Greenwood
I Greenwood (IG)
P Grice
A Grieve
Prof WG Griffin
J Griffiths
J&P Grimmett
M Grindle
J Grist (JG)
MJ Grunwell (MJG)
T Guild
M Gurney
S Gwilliam
A Haigh
GL Haigh
G Halden
D Hall
J Hall
J Halliday
JC Halliday
J Hamilton
R Hammon
A Hanby
J Hancox
CP Hansell
B Hanson
RE Harbird (REH)
J Hardacre
S Hardy
T Hardy
I Hargreaves
S&R Hargreaves
V Harju
B Harman
RD Harman (RDH)
O Harper
JT Harriman
C Harris
P Harrison
J Hart
R&C Hart
M Hartley
D&G Harvey
J Harwood (JH)
M Hayes
J Heaton
EJ Hediger (EJH)
S Henderson

S Hepton
W Hesketh
B Hewitt
J Hewitt (JHe)
N Hewitt
JR Hey
S Hey (SH)
J Higgins
P Higgins
I Higginson
C Higson
B Hill (BH)
RD Hill (RDH)
S Hiner
S Hines
H Hipperson
AD Hirst
S Hitchen
KS Hite
M Hitt
DG Hobson (DGH)
T Hobson
MG Hodges (MGH)
A Hodgkinson (AHo)
S Hodgkinson
J Holliday (JHol)
A Holmes
BM Holmes
G Holmes
K Holmes
M Holmes
CA Hopper
ME Hopper
RN Hopper (RNH)
T Hopper
C Horne (CHo)
T&V Horsfall
J Horton (JHo)
GM Horwood
T Houseman
I Howard
P&P Howes
B Hoyle
T Hubball
R Hughes
AD Hull
SL Hull
DA Hunter
DI Hunton
M Hurst
D Hursthouse (DH)
AA Hutt (AAH)
A Huyton
C Hyde (CH)
M Ibbotson
D Ingram (DI)
DD Ireland
JD Ireland
PV Irving (PVI)
T Isherwood (TI)
K Iveson
L Ives (LI)
D Jackson
J Jackson
K Jackson
B James
J James
M James

I Jennings
P Jepson
AF Johnson (AFJ)
CG Johnson
S Johnson
S Johnstone
C Jones
F Jones
NA Jones
A Josephs
A Jowett
T Jowsey
R Kay
T Keeler
A&A Kelly
M Kelly
T Kemp
I Kendall (IK)
F Kennington
S Kenworthy
A Kershaw
G Kershaw
N Kershaw
N Kerwin
T Keuchel
D&H Kidman
B Kilfallen
M Killeen (MK)
A King
C King
L King
PC King
J Kinnerman
M Kinsey
J Kirkby
P Kirkby
N Kirwin
M Knaggs
PJW Knight
R Knight
R Knock
P Knowles
D Lakin
T Lally
D Lambert
C Lamsdell
D Lamsdell
L Lancaster (LL)
T Landsdown
J Lane
M Larner
P Larner
PA Lassey (PAL)
EM Laverick (EML)
D Law
J Law
G Lax
SR Laycock
R Layton
GPK Leach
GY Leach
I Leach
JB Leason
JB Leason
A Lee
P Lee
B Leecy
G Leeming

P Leeming
RE Leighton
A Leonard
P Leonard (PL)
R Lewis
T Lewis
J & G Light
M Limbert
GM Lindley
N Lindsey
J Line
S Line
JK Lister (JKL)
SM Lister (SML)
J Lobban
R Lobley
A Lodge
D Lomas
E Long
R Long
E Lowe
RJ Lowe
T Lowe
A Lowry
S Luck
MD Lund
J Lunn
C Lutton
K Lyon
R Lyon (RL)
K Lyth
K Mainprize
N Major (NM)
A Malley (AMa)
F Mallinson
D Mansell
R&S Marriott
A Marshall
I Marshall (IM)
J Martin
J&P Martin
R Martin
D Mason
I Massey
JR Mather (JRM)
D McAleavy
T McCormick
J McEachen
T McEvoy (TMc)
I McGeorge (IMcG)
A McInnes
C McKay
L McKenzie
J McLoughlin
C&M McNaughton (CMc: MMc)
D Mee
GM Megson
MC Melchior
TM Melling
C Mellor
P Meredith (PM)
S Meridith
J&E Merryweather
M Metcalf
R Mew
DR Middleton
J Middleton (JM)

JL Middleton
P Middleton
L Midgley
V&K Midgley
F Miles
S Mills
T Milsom TM
M Mitchell
S Mitchell
SL Mitchell
S Mitchie
FX Moffatt
K Moir
DA Money (DAM)
DH Moor
C Moore
M Moore
B Morfitt
A Morgan
J Morgan
S Morgan (SM)
B&S Morland
D Morris
PR Morris (PRM)
Prof WG Morris
S Morris (SMo)
M Morrison
P Moulson
PL Mountain
J Mountford
KR Mudd
D Muir
T Mulsom
B Murphy
P Murphy
F Murray (FM)
P Myers
P Nash
W&B Naylor
MG Neal
C Needham
B Newby
P Newton
I Nicholson
J Nicholson
A Noms
KA Norrie
A Norris (AN)
C Nutton
MA Oates
D O'Connor (DO)
R O'Connor
B Ogden
H Old
P Oldham
B Oliver
J Oliver
N Oliver
J O'Malley
T O'Neil
J Ostoja-Starzewski
J Owen
K&E Padgett
JA Pollentine
M Palmer
C&J Paltree
J Park
EC Parker (ECP)

N&E Parker
R&A Parker
S Parker
D&B Parkin
J Parkin
RT Parrish (RTP)
V Parslow
M Parsons
N Parton
S Pashby
A Patchett
P Patrick
A Payne
J Payne
C Peacock (CP)
DM Pearce (DMP)
JM Pearson (JMP)
M Pearson
P Pearson
S Peel
K Pendleberry
DH Pennington
B Pepper
DJ Perry
J Pewtress
D Pickering
K Pickering (KP)
N Pickering (NP)
G Picton (GP)
J Picton
MJ Pilsworth (MJP)
R Platts
D Pointon
J Poland
C&D Pollard
R Pope
N&S Popham
A Porter (AP)
B Porter (BP)
R Porter
JD Postlethwaite
D Poyser
D Prest
NA Preston
J Price
MV Priestley
WH Priestley
JM Prime
D Proctor
P Prosser
M Quinlan (MQ)
S Race
A Raine
CS Ralston (CSR)
A Rands
J Read
P Reed
J Regan (JR)
SC Renouf
A Rhodes
T Rhodes
B Richards BR)
LM Richardson (LMR)
D Rickards
G Rickers (GR)
FX Ridley
P&A Riley
A Roadhouse (AR)

C&J Roberts
IW&C Roberts
A Robertshaw
CC Robinson
I Robinson
I&J Robinson
M Robinson (MR)
N Robinson
M Robson
P Robson
N Roe (NR)
K Roebuck
S Roebuck
T Rogers
AJ Ross
S Routledge
MD Rowbotton
M Rowntree
G Royston
J Rushworth
T Ryan
J Sagar
J Sanderson (JS)
L & P Sands
ML Saunders
JM Saville
A&C Sawbridge
R Scally
DJ Scanlan (DJS)
PM Scanlan
JA Schofield
D Scott
GW Scott
LJ Scott
R Scott (RSc)
RJ Scott (RJSc)
R Scullion
A Scutt (AS)
R Seaton
JE Seeviour (JES)
G Sellors
I Senior
P Senior
M Sharpe
C Shields
C&D Shields
B Shorrock
P Short
I Simms
G Simon
A Simpson
B Simpson
D Simpson
DJ Simpson
DW Simpson
K Singleton
PR Singleton
SP Singleton
T Sinnott
RS Slack (RSS)
AD Slade
P Slade
B Slater
C Slator
T Smart
GM Smith
I Smith
JI Smith

JN Smith (JNS)
M Smith
P Smith (PS)
PA Smith
PJW Smith
B Smithson
J Snowden (JSn)
AJ Snowdon
L Sollitt
A & J Soper
I Spalding
T Spall
GA Speck
M Spedding
GJ Speight (GJS)
BR Spence (BRS)
J Spencer
R Sprakes (RSp)
S St Pierre
DJ Standring
SD Stansfield
D Starkey **(DS)**
L Stead
M Stead
BA Stephenson
CR Stephenson
D Stephenson
G Stephenson
P Stephenson
R Stephenson (RS)
HR Sterne
M Stirland
J Stockhuasen
D Stokoe
A Stonier
AJ Stoyle (AJS)
MF Stoyle (MFS)
MG Stoyle
A Strangeway
R Strangeway
P Strickland
B Sumner (BS)
DJ Sutcliffe
K Sutcliffe
SL Svejnoha
RJ Swales (RJS)
P Swallow
P Swayne (PSw)
D&E Swift
A Symonds
P Talbot
N Tasker
D Tate (DT)
D Tattersley
M Taunton
B Taylor
D Taylor
G Taylor
GC Taylor (GCT)
J Taylor
M Taylor
N Taylor
R Taylor
RC Taylor
C Teal
B Temple
CC Thomas (CCT)
G Thomas

K Thomas
M Thomas (MT)
MS Thomas
BM Thompson
C Thompson
E Thompson
FJ Thompson
G Thompson
J Thompson
JW Thompson
MA Thompson
S Thornton
P Thorpe
D Townsend (DTo)
D Thurlow
J Thurlston
C&P Tinson (C&PT)
G Todd
P Tomlinson
JL Topham
P Towers
R&G Traves
B Travis
PT Treloar
A Tremithick
E Trickett
P Trueblood
T Tudor
M Tulloch
B&E Turnbull
D Turner
J Turner
V Turner
JM Turton (JMT)
B Van der Ven (BV)
T Vaughan
D Venus
BB Vickers
H Vilkaitis
T Vittery
DM Waddington (DMW)
G Waddington
G Wadsworth
J Wadsworth
S Wadsworth
SD Waite
B Walker
ID Walker (IDW)
J Walker
JA Walke
N Walker
T Walker
P Wall
G Walsh
DPA Ward
P Ward
G Wardle
O Wardman
M Warren
MJ Warrington
J Warwick
JC Warwick
SP&J Warwick
J Wasse
GV Watola
J Watts
D Waudby (DW)
J Webb (JW)

I Webster
S Webster
J Weibum
M Weir
B Wells
MC Wells
W West
J Westmorland
L Westmorland
D&J Whitaker
PM White
HJ Whitehead (HJW)
M&S Whitehead
IC Whitehouse (ICW)
NP Whitehouse (NPW)
SJM Whitehouse
G Whitfield
A Whittaker
M&F Widdowson
M Wiggins
M Wightman
S Wignill
R Wilding
T Wilding
P Wiley (PW)
C Wilkinson
B Williams
DJ Williams
S Williams
R Willison
PJ&S Willoughby
B Wilson
D Wilson
M Wilson
C Winn
R Winspear
J Wint (JWi)
P Winter
M&A Wiseman
K Withey
S Witty
G Wolfenden
DH Woodmansey
B Woods
D Woods
P Woods
R Woods
M Wood-Weatherill
M Wooler
J Woolley
S Worrall
SP Worwood (SPW)
R Woulds
D Wozencroft (DWo)
J Wozencroft (JWo)
J Wragg
P Wragg
D Young
L Young
A Zabukas

Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and *British Birds*. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for most species on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and other rare species dealt with by the Panel, including all the scarcer non-native breeding species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets *etc*. Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories: **possible**, **probable**, **proved**.

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species for which information is required that are known to have bred, or attempted to breed, in recent years in Yorkshire are listed below.

- ✪ Gadwall
- Pintail
- Garganey
- Shoveler
- ✪ Common Pochard
- Black-necked Grebe
- Bittern
- Honey-buzzard
- Marsh Harrier
- ✪ Hen Harrier
- Montagu's Harrier
- ✪ Northern Goshawk
- ✪ Hobby
- Quail
- Water Rail
- Spotted Crake
- Corn Crake
- Avocet
- ✪ Little Ringed Plover
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Little Gull
- Roseate Tern
- ✪ Little Tern
- Eagle Owl
- ✪ Wood Lark
- Bluethroat
- Black Redstart
- Fieldfare
- Cetti's Warbler
- Marsh Warbler
- Firecrest
- ✪ Bearded Tit
- Golden Oriole
- Parrot Crossbill
- Hawfinch
- ✪ Common Rosefinch

In the case of the Less Scarce Species (marked ✪ above), the VC Recorder prepares a summary each year for the Panel.

For the Rare Species, recording forms are completed detailing the status, success and site of each pair.

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds 81: p 102 – 103*, and is on the RBBP website.

Observers may, if they wish, submit records directly to the Panel Secretary, but the normal procedure is to send them in the first instance to the relevant County Recorder who will forward them to the Panel.

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP website.

Write to:
The Secretary, (Mark Holling) Rare Breeding Birds Panel,
The Old Orchard, Grange Road, North Berwick,
East Lothian. EH39 4QT
Phone: **01620-894037**
Email: **secretary@rbbp.org.uk**
Website: **www.rbbp.org.uk**

The deadline for submission of records by county recorders for 2007 is 3**0th April 2009**.

Local Reports

The following sources, including local society and club reports, have been used to compile this report; readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant report.

Beal Carrs Report 2006
Bempton RSPB Report 2006
Birdguides
BirdTrack
Blacktoft Sands RSPB Ornithological Report 2006
Bradford Ornithological Group 2006
British Trust for Ornithology
Central Science Laboratories Report 2006
Cleveland Bird Report 2006
Cononley Ornithological Group Report 2006
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve Report 2006
Filey Ornithological Group Report 2006
Flamborough Ornithological Group/Observatory Bird Report 2006
Halifax Bird Report 2006
Harrogate & District Naturalists' Society Report 2006
Hull Valley Report 2006
Kelk Area 2006
Leeds Bird Club Report 2006
Malham Tarn Report 2006
New Earswick and Huntington Report 2006
North Cave Wetlands Report 2006
Old Moor and Broomhill Ings Report 2006
Potteric Carr Report 2006
Pugneys CP Report 2006
Pulfin Bog Natural History Report 2006
Rodley NR Report 2006
Ryedale Natural History Society Report 2006
Scarborough & District Bird Report 2006
Sheffield Bird Study Group Report 2006
Sorby NHS Report 2006
Southfield Reservoir and Went Ings Report 2006
Spurn Wildlife No16 (Spurn Bird Observatory)
Thorne Moors Bird Report 2006
Upper Wharfedale Bird Report 2006
Wintersett Bird Report 2006
Yorkshire Birding 2006

Scalby Lodge Farmhouse

BED AND BREAKFAST

With some of the best views on the North Yorkshire Coast, Scalby Lodge Farmhouse is set on a stunning clifftop location, looking out to sea, whilst overlooking the historic and elegant seaside town of Scarborough. Enjoy the romantic illuminated skyline view of the Castle and town at night

Scalby Lodge Farmhouse overlooks Scalby Lodge Pond (see photo), a mecca for birdwatching, with recent sitings including the Hoopoe, Bar-tailed Godwit, Long-tailed Duck and Barred Warbler. We have two resident Barn Owls that hunt over the pond at dawn and dusk, along with the hundreds of coastal birds that cover the fields around us.

We are only yards from the Cleveland Way - a remarkable clifftop walk that links the towns of Scarborough, Filey and Whitby, as featured on the BBC 2 programme Coast, and have 3 family friendly pub/restaurants within easy walking distance. The Farmhouse is only a fifteen minute walk from Scarborough's North Bay Beach, whilst also being close to the North Yorkshire Moors, Dalby Forest and Forge Valley. Bempton RSPB Reserve is also only a 30 minute drive away

For More Information please call James & Hannah on
01723 365 385
or visit our website
www.scalbylodgefarmhouse.co.uk

Guidelines for Contributors

The *Yorkshire Bird Report* is an annual publication intended as a record of interesting ornithological observations made within the historic county of Yorkshire; for further details of the recording area, please refer to the map opposite. As the Report aims to be an accurate record, all unusual sightings have been accepted by the YNU's adjudication panel or, where applicable, the British Birds Rarities Committee prior to publication.

Manuscripts relating to migration studies, the documentation of unusual sightings, or local patch studies are welcomed, with those submitted subject to editing where appropriate. The editors will gladly discuss contributions with the authors and advise on preparation.

GENERAL

When a bird species is mentioned both the English and scientific name must be given, thereafter, the English name only. English names should follow that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (7th edition, 2006) updated by BOU 2006. Metric units must be used; dates should be in the form 1st January 2008. Numbers one to ten should be written in full, except when used with a measurement abbreviation or higher number, thus: five birds, but 5km and 5-11 birds. Numerals are used for all numbers greater than ten, written thus: 11, 110, 1100 and 11,000.

MANUSCRIPTS

These should preferably be sent electronically as an email attachment to **craigcthomas@yahoo.co.uk** or mailed on a disk. The text, tables, figure legends (which must be self explanatory) and appendices should be combined in one Word.doc file. A hard copy must be provided with any article that includes tables or graphics. Alternatively, typescripts, original maps and diagrams can be sent by mail. All articles are credited with the authors name.

IMAGES

Original slides, negatives and prints are preferred for professional scanning to ensure optimum reproduction. All relevant images submitted will be evaluated and credited with the photographer's name.

If images are taken with a digital camera please ensure that they are taken at the maximum resolution so the physical and file size are large enough for this publication's format (170x245mm). Tiff, eps or JPEG files of at least 300dpi are preferred. JPEG files must be 'maximum' quality, that is, maximum compression. Please ensure that all images are labelled with the species, month taken and photographer's full name.

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FIGURES (maps or diagrams)

These should preferably be sent as high resolution (300dpi) scans in a standard format (JPEG or Tiff). Maps should be marked with a scale and a north arrow.

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It is assumed that all the above conditions have been understood and accepted.

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